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For immediate release:

**WISH TREE FOR PASADENA
A TEMPORARY SITE-SPECIFIC ARTWORK BY YOKO ONO
AUGUST 2 – NOVEMBER 9, 2008**

PASADENA, Calif. (August 2008) -- *Wish Tree for Pasadena*, Yoko Ono's only West Coast showing of her celebrated *Wish Tree* installation, opens this Saturday at 10:00 A.M. Consisting of 21 living crape myrtle trees installed amongst the café tables and chairs in the One Colorado Courtyard, visitors are invited to write their wishes on pieces of paper and hang them on the tree branches. Yoko Ono's *Wish Tree for Pasadena* is free and open to the public.

The opening of the Pasadena *Wish Tree* exhibition will be celebrated Saturday, August 2 at 10:00 A.M. by childcare providers from Cultural Care Au Pair, along with the local children they care for and other members of their host families, giving the event a truly international flavor. The local Cultural Care Au Pairs will be helping the children reach the tree branches to tie wishes in the trees.

Wishes from *Wish Tree for Pasadena* will be joined with others from around the world and placed in specially constructed capsules to be installed in the area surrounding Yoko Ono's *Imagine Peace Tower* on Videy Island, off the coast of Reykjavík, Iceland. The artwork is dedicated to the memory of John Lennon. The tower, a column of light emanating from a stone base with a radius of about 10 meters, is lit for two months each year starting on October 9, John Lennon's birthday, and ending on December 9, the anniversary of his death. The artwork is also lit at certain other special times during the year. For more information, visit www.imaginepeace.com

Facts about Yoko Ono's *Wish Tree for Pasadena*

- Consists of 21 crape myrtle trees (Lagerstroemia)
- Planters are recycled wine barrels
- Yoko Ono's artwork, *Wish Tree*, has been presented around the world, including the city of Detroit; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; Museum of Modern Art, Rio de Janeiro; Museum of Modern Art, Oxford; Lonja del Pescado, Alicante, Spain; Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo; Samsung Museum, Seoul; the Venice Biennale exhibition; and numerous other venues
- Hundreds of thousands of wishes have been collected worldwide
- Trees will be donated to Arlington Garden, a community garden in Pasadena following the installation

Yoko Ono's influence for *Wish Tree* is connected to her early childhood experiences in Japan: "As a child, I used to go to a temple and buy a printed paper wish sold at the temple and tie it around the branch of a bush. Bushes in temple courtyards were always filled with people's wish knots, which looked like white flowers blossoming from afar," she said.

Wish Tree for Pasadena is on view in the One Colorado Courtyard, located in Old Pasadena in the block bounded by Colorado Boulevard, Fair Oaks, Union and DeLacey. www.onecolorado.com

Presented in collaboration with the Armory Center for the Arts and One Colorado. www.armoryarts.org

Armory Center for the Arts

The Armory Center for the Arts is an arts center based in the community. The center offers innovative approaches to creating, exploring and presenting the visual arts to students of all ages. In addition to providing an outlet for contemporary art exhibitions and performances, the Armory offers studio art classes and a variety of educational outreach programs to more than fifty schools and community sites.

One Colorado

One Colorado spans one city block in the heart of Old Pasadena. This award-winning property unites the authentic urban environment of 17 historic buildings with 25 contemporary fashion and dining attractions. Its famous Courtyard and pedestrian alleys are consistently filled with high-quality art markets, film festivals, music and large-scale site-specific art installations.

Cultural Care Au Pair

Cultural Care Au Pair is an organization that provides in-home childcare for families across America. Au pairs bring their culture and childcare experience from all around the world, with a commitment to sharing the American life experience. Cultural Care au pairs from Brazil, Sweden, South Africa, Germany, Russia, Thailand, Venezuela and China are currently working in the region.

Cultural Care Au Pair brings flexible, affordable childcare that is culture and language enriching, giving a fresh perspective to families who want their kids to be children of the world.

PUBLIC: For further information please call 626.792.5101 ext. 116 or visit www.onecolorado.com

MEDIA: For images and more information, please call 626.792.5101 ext. 134 or e-mail sbicos@armoryarts.org

