



LOS ANGELES CONTEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS
6522 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90028
t: 323.957.1777 | f: 323.957.9025

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Carol Stakenas
323.957.1777 x15 and carol@welcometolace.org

The Rainforest: A Landscape in the Shower

Dustin Shuler's living landscape suspends the barriers between art, technology and life



Dustin Shuler. *The Rainforest*. 2006 (detail)

Exhibition runs Thursday 21 September – Sunday 17 December 2006

Opening Reception Wednesday 20 September 2006, 7 – 9pm

Los Angeles, July 2006: Running from 21 September through 17 December 2006, LACE's exhibition of Dustin Shuler's *The Rainforest: A Landscape in the Shower* will be the first time this remarkable living sculpture has been shown. *Rainforest* is the culmination of 15 years of work and experimentation by Shuler. It represents a fertile point of departure from his large-scale, static sculptures. Here he leaves the manipulated heavy metal of his past works behind and focuses instead on the creation of an organic system and the shifting relationships between the sculptural environment and its live inhabitants.

In *Rainforest*, Shuler has created a miniature ecosystem fashioned out of a mass-produced shower and bathtub unit with elaborate water, light and sound systems housed in clear plexi-glass units flanking each side. The turtles, fish, birds, frogs and foliage that populate this microcosm are the "living" component of the sculpture—as they respond to the cycles of light and weather that Shuler has programmed into the environment, they also respond to and interact with each other in ways that the artist can neither predict nor control.

Dustin Shuler's work provokes a thoughtful investigation of our environment and the increasingly blurred distinction between natural and artificial aspects of our urban ecosystems. This exemplary sculpture reflects the artist's passionate interest in living systems and invites the viewer to consider the energy, effort and technologies that are required to sustain "natural" living environments in otherwise inhospitable locales. This pressing global issue has particular relevance in Los Angeles, where technology sustains lush environs and a vast urban population in the midst of an arid desert climate.

LACE will install this major artwork in our storefront gallery to directly attract the attention of the many passersby that traverse Hollywood Boulevard's Walk of Fame both day and night. *The Rainforest's* dynamic sculptural environment can be enjoyed from the street as well as inside the gallery for a more intimate experience.

RELATED PROGRAMS

Sunday 15 October 2006 | 3pm

Artist talk with Dustin Shuler

[more →](#)

Support for *The Rainforest: A Landscape in a Shower* comes from The David Bermant Foundation: Color, Light, Motion.



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RELATED PROGRAMS cont.

Also at LACE this fall: **Alexander Apóstol** curated by Bill Kelley, Jr. This exhibition features two large-scale photographic series by this Venezuelan artist—*Residente Pulido* and *Residente Pulido, Ranchos*—as well as new video work. Apóstol's large-scale photos of Caracas' urban architecture provide other points of entry into a dialogue about urbanism and our environment, thus offering a complementary pairing with *Rainforest*.

In conjunction with both exhibits, a Fall *Salon Series* of biweekly events—performance art, readings, and video screenings—is being developed to encourage interplay between artistic disciplines as well as spark conversation and connection. As part of the *Salon Series*, we invite you to attend two evenings of performances by the German sound and visual artist **Michael Vorfeld** on 8 & 9 November 2006.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1948, **Dustin Shuler** attended classes at the Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh before moving to Los Angeles in the early 70s. Since 1975 he has been involved in solo and group shows throughout the United States and Europe. He is best known for his large-scale and public sculptures, such as *Death of an Era*, a 1980 piece consisting of a 59 Cadillac impaled with a 20-foot replica of a common nail; *Pinned Butterfly*, a 1982 piece in which a Cessna 150 airplane was affixed to the side of downtown L.A.'s American Hotel; 1983's *Auto Pelt, 63 VW*, a "skinned" 1963 Volkswagen bug which was hung on the wall of the Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego; and *The Spindle*, 1989, a sculpture located just outside of Chicago that has eight full-sized cars impaled on a 50-foot spindle. Shuler has also displayed an interest in ecological processes in some of his past works, notably in the series of "simulated earthquakes" that he performed at numerous galleries in the early years of his career.

ABOUT LACE (Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions)

Located in the heart of Hollywood, LACE contributes to the long-term enrichment of Los Angeles' urban landscape and champions art's ability to engage with the timely issues that shape local and global life. LACE events -- exhibitions, performances, screenings, dialogs and other public forums -- strive to inspire the public imagination and to expand interactions between art and audience.

Support for LACE and its programs comes from: The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, California Community Foundation, City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs, The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, The Getty Foundation, Hollywood Chamber of Commerce Community Foundation, Jockey Hollow Foundation, Los Angeles County Arts Commission, Morris Family Foundation, Stone Brewing Co., and the members of LACE.

Admission to LACE is free with a recommended donation of \$3.00 (\$2.00 students, members free). Gallery hours: Wednesday – Sunday 12 - 6 pm, Friday 12 - 9 pm. For more information about LACE and its programs please visit www.welcometolace.org

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