



JUNE 1, 2006 NEWS RELEASE  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
METROPOLITAN ARTS PARTNERSHIP

EXHIBIT: *Yemaya...Waves of Love* an installation by artist Andrea "YaYa"  
Porras

OPENING RECEPTION: Thursday, June 8, 4:00 - 7:00 pm (Exhibition ends  
August 4, 2006)

LOCATION: The Arts Building, *MAP GALLERY OF MYTH, STORIES AND  
LIVING TRADITIONS*, 808 Lincoln, Auburn, CA 95603

A BLEND OF CULTURES CREATE THE ALTAR AND INSTALLATION  
"YEMAYA... WAVES OF LOVE" AT THE MAP GALLERY OF MYTH, STORIES  
AND LIVING TRADITIONS

In its opening exhibition the MAP Gallery of Myth, Stories and Living Traditions presents, *Yemaya...Waves of Love*, a site specific installation that draws upon the Yoruba and Spanish cultures contextualized from African, Spanish and Indigenous stories that intersect and combine to create a living contemporary tradition of Yemaya.

Here Yemaya is derived from African-Yoruba story and tradition of the maternal creation and life force. She is depicted as an ocean mermaid who watches over her children, providing them with the fruits of life. There is a story that Yemaya watched over the slaves during the "middle passages," the journey of the slave trading ships from the west coast of Africa, where the slaves were obtained, across the Atlantic and to the Americas. Juxtaposed in the Americas, Yemaya also took on the attributes and stories of the Native Indigenous and Spanish people.

The installation fills the 30x30 feet gallery with a series of altars depicting various aspects of Yemaya: The mermaid herself; the gifts of the ocean including shells, waves, and precious stones; the protection she provides; and the symbols she adores such as flowers, silver and all things blue and white. Much like the maternal Yemaya, the exhibition gives the feeling of being in a womb, a place of warmth and comfort, as the gallery is tucked within the basement of *Arts Building* located in Old Town Auburn. Reflecting cross-cultural African traditions in the Americas, *Yemaya...Waves of Love* is a work done in the altar tradition of a center

theme and aspects and variations on that theme.

“*Waves of Love* is a powerful testament of how stories and traditions are used within cultures to sustain themselves from times of horrific challenges through triumph,” says artist **Andrea “YaYa” Porrás** who originally created the work for the Oakland Museum of California in 2002. Porrás is a parent, actress, dancer, poet and installation artist from Sacramento. She dedicates her installation to her maternal and paternal grandparents who rose to triumph over injustices during their time.

### ***THE MAP GALLERY OF MYTH, STORIES AND LIVING TRADITIONS***

Envisioned to evoke the transformative value of historic and contemporary cultural traditions, MAP’s Gallery uses the power of myth, stories and imagination to give voice to the universality of cultural traditions. The gallery is an outreach program of the Metropolitan Arts Partnership (“MAP”) and is designed to provide a greater presence in the region. The *Gallery of Myth, Stories and Living Traditions* will soon expand to include a companion lecture, workshop and conference series.

The primary programs of MAP are its work place giving *Arts Fund*; the management of the local federal workplace giving program, the *Combined Federal Campaign*; and the gallery outreach program in the *Arts Building* located in Old Town Auburn. The *Arts Building* is a collective of regional artists and arts organizations. MAP’s Gallery participates in the quarterly *Art Walk* openings, a program of the Arts Council of Placer County. MAP also maintains an office in mid-town Sacramento; within the historic brick building that houses the 20<sup>th</sup> Street Art Gallery.

For more information contact, MAP executive director, Michelle Walker, 916.442.4016 or [michelle@mapgives.com](mailto:michelle@mapgives.com).

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