Contact:
Gabriel Cifarelli, Public Information Director
gabriel.cifarelli@lacity.org / (213) 202-5560

Stephanie M. Sykes
Sykes Media Strategies
stephanie@sykesmediastrategies.com

City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery Announces Public Programs for *Susan Silton: Diving into the Wreck*

Exhibition Dates: September 3 to November 22, 2026
Opening Reception: Thursday, September 10, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Three-Month Season of Performances, Readings, and Conversations
Includes the First Activation of Silton's Collective Typing Installation in over a Decade



PRESS KIT AVAILABLE HERE

Los Angeles, CA, August 17, 2026 – The Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG) today announced the full slate of public programs accompanying *Susan Silton: Diving into the Wreck*, the first major survey of the Los Angeles-based artist's four-decade practice, on view September 3 through November 22, 2026.

Across three months, LAMAG and the surrounding grounds of Barnsdall Art Park will host

performers, poets, novelists, art historians, and members of the public as part of its programming. Programs are free and open to the public and are located at LAMAG unless otherwise noted.

HIGHLIGHT PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Thursday, September 10, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
LAMAG
Public Reception, featuring The Crowing Hens and the return of *In everything there is the trace* (2013)
The opening reception marks the first activation of Silton's installation *In everything there is the trace* (2013) since its debut at USC Fisher Museum of Art, and the beginning of a public typing program that will run for the length of the exhibition. The installation centers on a circular table built from ten interlocking desks, each structurally dependent on its neighbor. Ten participants at a time sit at ten manual typewriters and in this iteration will retype Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Sower*. They will type without ink, in what is called stencil mode, so the only record is the imprint of the keys striking the page.

The evening begins with refreshments on the balcony at 6:00 p.m., followed by a typing performance at 7:00 p.m. featuring writers, artists, and participants from Silton's past works. The Crowing Hens, the all-female whistling group Silton founded in 2009, whose members include Erin Barnes, Jessica Basta, Carole Anne Kaufman, Laura Loftsgaarden, and Kathryn Nockels, will perform interactively through the crowd.

Visit lamag.org to register.

Saturday, September 26, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Barnsdall Gallery Theatre
Susan Silton in Conversation with Natilee Harren and Susanna Phillips Newbury
Silton joins art historians Natilee Harren and Susanna Phillips Newbury, both contributors to the exhibition's catalog, for a conversation around the artist's engagement with vision, voice, and public address. Surprise readings and guests will accompany the talk.

Sunday, November 8, 12:00 p.m.
Wilshire/Fairfax Metro Station, Plaza Level
Metro Art x LAMAG: Susan Silton Art Tour
Metro Art commissioned-artist Susan Silton will lead a tour of her artwork, *WE,OUR,US,* at the newly opened Wilshire/Fairfax Station. Silton will share her inspiration, creative process, and approach to making art for public spaces and how this work connects with her first major survey on view at LAMAG. Metro TAP cards will be distributed to tour attendees. Attendees are encouraged to **GO METRO** to LAMAG following the event.

COMPLETE PROGRAM SCHEDULE
All programs are free and open to the public. Programs take place at LAMAG unless otherwise noted.

Friday, September 4, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Friday Art Night: Gallery Viewing *of Diving into the Wreck*
Be among the first to see the exhibition. Curator Andy Campbell will be on hand to answer questions.

Thursday, September 10, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Public Reception, featuring The Crowing Hens
First activation of *In everything there is the trace* (2013), with a typing performance and whistling by The Crowing Hens.

Friday, September 11, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Friday Art Night: Gallery Viewing of *Diving into the Wreck*
Experience the exhibition into the evening hours.

Saturday, September 26, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Barnsdall Gallery Theatre
Susan Silton in Conversation with Natilee Harren and Susanna Phillips Newbury
The artist in dialogue with two catalog contributors, with surprise readings and guests.

Saturday, October 3, 1:00 p.m.
Curators Dive: Walkthrough with Andy Campbell and Nancy Meyer
Join guest curator Andy Campbell and LAMAG curator Nancy Meyer as they tour the exhibition.

Saturday, October 10, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Barnsdall Art Park Pine Grove
Poets in the Grove
To celebrate and activate Susan Silton's new public work *Civilized Voices* (2026), join the commissioned poets—Rocío Carlos, Erin Marie Lynch, Lynne Thompson, and Terry Wolverton—for a round of special readings in the Barnsdall Park pine grove.

Saturday, October 17, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Barnsdall Art Park Pine Grove
Poets in the Grove, Vol. 2
To continue the celebration of Susan Silton's commissioned public work *Civilized Voices*, join the Los Feliz Writers, a group led by Sammy Ginsberg that works to celebrate, engage, and empower local writers through writing meet-ups, workshops, and an annual festival, for a special program of poetry readings.

Saturday, October 24, 1:00 p.m.
Curators Dive: Walkthrough with Andy Campbell and Nancy Meyer
A second opportunity to tour the exhibition with guest curator Andy Campbell and LAMAG curator Nancy Meyer.

Saturday, November 7, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Catalog Release and "Readings" with Susan Silton and Dana Johnson
To celebrate the release of the exhibition catalog for *Susan Silton: Diving into the Wreck* join the artist and writer Dana Johnson for a performance reading of Johnson's story *Later and Later, Longer Than Ever*.

Sunday, November 8, 12:00 p.m.
Wilshire/Fairfax Metro Station, Plaza Level
Metro Art x LAMAG: Susan Silton Art Tour
Metro Art commissioned-artist Susan Silton will lead a tour of her artwork, *WE,OUR,US,* at the newly opened Wilshire/Fairfax Station.

Saturday, November 14, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Barnsdall Art Park Pine Grove
Let's Get LOST! Poster Giveaway featuring Kiki and the Bisquits
As part of a public giveaway of Susan Silton's Make-Ready posters, join the artist and multi-genre cover band Kiki and the Bisquits for an afternoon of "lost" covers (songs featuring the word "lost" in their lyrics) and celebration.

SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAMS
Throughout the run of *Susan Silton: Diving into the Wreck*, additional satellite and supplemental programs may take place in response to the exhibition, the artist's ongoing projects, and current programming at the gallery. Organized by artists, community groups, and invited collaborators, these activities will continue to expand conversations inspired by the exhibition and its themes. Details will be shared as they become available.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION
Susan Silton: Diving into the Wreck is the first major survey of the LA-based artist's work, comprising over 150 works including participatory and multi-media installations; photographic, video, and audio works; early graphic pieces; and textual interventions. The exhibition positions Silton as a key figure in West Coast conceptual, feminist, and queer genealogies of art and design. Its title comes from Adrienne Rich's 1972 poem, in which a diver descends to explore an unnamed wreck and observes:

"I came to explore the wreck.
The words are purposes.
The words are maps."

Debuting alongside the exhibition is *Civilized Voices* (2026), a site-specific public project inspired by the billboards Aline Barnsdall erected at Barnsdall Park in the 1940s. In homage to Barnsdall's use of billboards for social and political messaging, Silton commissioned five Los Angeles-area poets (Rocío Carlos, Cathy Lin Che, Erin Marie Lynch, Lynne Thompson, and Terry Wolverton) to write new works featured on five hand-painted billboards sited among the pine trees in front of the gallery.

The exhibition is accompanied by a nearly 300-page catalog co-published by the Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston, which originated the exhibition, and Inventory Press. Edited by Andy Campbell, it includes contributions by Adrienne Rich, Ramón García, Amelia Jones, Natilee Harren, Dana Johnson, Susanna Phillips Newbury, Dodie Bellamy, David Evans Frantz, Mady Schutzman, and Karen Moss, along with 200 images and a special artist edition from Silton's series *By power of suggestion, which in favorable circumstances becomes instruction*. The catalog will be available onsite and at artbook.com/D.A.P.

ABOUT THE ARTIST
Susan Silton resides in Los Angeles. Her interdisciplinary projects respond to the complexities of subjectivity in a given moment, often through poetic combinations of humor, discomfort, subterfuge and unabashed beauty. These works take form in performance, participatory projects, photography, video, installation, text/audio and print-based works. Her work has been presented at MOCA, Los Angeles; SFMOMA, San Francisco; Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects; LAXART, Los Angeles; Hammer Museum; ICA/Philadelphia; MAK Center for Art and Architecture, Los Angeles; and Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne, among others. Projects include the commissioned site-specific performance *Quartet for the End of*

Time, produced by LAND (Los Angeles Nomadic Division); the site-specific opera *A Sublime Madness in the Soul*; and the book project *Who's in a Name?* In 2015, Silton's Whistling Project was included in SITE Santa Fe's year-long series *SITE 20 Years/20 Shows*, which included a commissioned performance by The Crowing Hens, the women's whistling group Silton founded in 2009.

Silton has received fellowships and awards from the Getty/California Community Foundation, Art Matters, Center for Cultural Innovation, Cultural Affairs Department of the City of Los Angeles, The MacDowell Colony, Banff Centre for the Arts, Durfee Foundation, The Shifting Foundation, and Fellows of Contemporary Art (FOCA). Most recently, her LA Metro Art commission for permanent installation, *WE,OUR,US*, opened at the Wilshire/Fairfax station.

# # #

Image Credit: Susan Silton, *In everything there is the trace*, 2013, Mixed-media Installation: ten interlocking wood tables, ten wood/steel chairs, ten manual typewriters, ten steel bookstands, ten books, typing paper, collective typing sessions, Photo: Brian Forrest

Exhibition Credit
Susan Silton: Diving into the Wreck is curated by Andy Campbell with organizational and curatorial support from Nancy Meyer, LAMAG Curator. Additional support for this exhibition and its accompanying catalog (co-published by the Blaffer Art Museum and Inventory Press) has been provided by an Infinite Expansion Grant from The Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts, Aurora-Viburnum Foundation, The Shifting Foundation, Kim and Keith Allen-Niesen, The Barnsdall Art Park Foundation, the Plum Foundation, and individual donors.

About the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery
The Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG), established in 1954, is the city's longest-running institution devoted solely to exhibiting art and is located atop Olive Hill within Barnsdall Art Park in East Hollywood. The park was gifted to the City of Los Angeles in 1927 by Aline Barnsdall, who stipulated that it be dedicated to the arts, inspired by her original vision and the architectural legacy of Frank Lloyd Wright, who designed the Hollyhock House and envisioned a vibrant arts center for the community. LAMAG's current building, a spacious 10,000-square-foot gallery, was constructed and opened in 1971. Many renowned artists first gained recognition at LAMAG, including Carlos Almaraz, Eleanor Antin, John Baldessari, Mark Bradford, Vija Celmins, Harry Gamboa Jr., David Hammons, Barbara Kruger, Kerry James Marshall, Senga Nengudi, Catherine Opie, Sandy Rodriguez, Ed Ruscha, and Bruce and Norman Yonemoto. Among its most influential leaders, Josine Ianco-Starrels (director, 1975–1987) championed artistic independence, social justice, and under-recognized artists, including women and artists of color. Her legacy of diversity and creative risk-taking endures as LAMAG remains a free, welcoming space dedicated to expanding access to contemporary art for Los Angeles's diverse communities.

About the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)
As a leading, progressive arts and cultural agency, DCA empowers Los Angeles' vibrant communities by supporting and providing access to quality visual, literary, musical, performing, and educational arts programming; managing vital cultural centers; preserving historic sites; creating public art; and funding services provided by arts organizations and individual artists. Formed in 1925, DCA promotes arts and culture as a way to ignite a powerful dialogue, engage LA's residents and visitors, and ensure LA's varied cultures are recognized, acknowledged, and experienced. DCA's mission is to strengthen the quality of life in Los Angeles by stimulating and supporting arts and cultural activities, ensuring public access to the arts for residents and visitors alike. DCA advances the social and economic impact of arts and culture through grantmaking; public art; community arts; performing arts; and strategic marketing, development, design, and digital research. For more information, please visit culture.lacity.gov or follow on Facebook at facebook.com/culturela, Instagram @culture_la, and Twitter @culture_la.