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NEWS RELEASE

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Cupertino Names 'Distinguished Artist'

Corinne Okada Takara, a Cupertino artist, has been selected as the 2006 "Distinguished Artist of the Year" by the city of Cupertino's Fine Arts Commission.

Ms. Takara's current work involves the creation of sculptures made of wire and papers pressed from food wrappers and other recycled artifacts. Her sculptures have appeared in galleries in Hawaii, San Francisco, Florida, New York and Boston. Her works are also in numerous private collections and in the permanent collection of the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts. Most recently she has created a series of sculptures for both the Boston Children's Hospital and for the new Kaiser Permanent Hospital in Santa Clara. That recent work includes centerpiece sculptures in the main lobby wall composed of three 8-foot-tall kimono sculptures representing sea, earth and sky. On the fourth floor is a 9-foot-wide butterfly composed of different ethnic food wrappers all purchased from stores in Santa Clara. This January, she completed three ikebana sculptures that hang behind the main reception desk.

Ms. Takara is a graduate of Stanford University, and prior to her art career, she was an illustrator and graphic design consultant. In addition to her work as an artist, she also teaches art.

Previous winners of the Cupertino Distinguished Artist Award include ceramic artist Janet Leong Malan, visual artist Kate Curry, ceramic artist Mahoko Dahte, singer-composer Robert L. Harrison, visual and performing artist Ann Stamm Merrill; pianist Makiko Ooka, visual artist Sara Loesch Frank, visual artist Brother Joseph Aspell, S.M., and ikebana flower artist Fusako Seiga Hoyrup.

The Cupertino Fine Arts Commission will present its "Distinguished Artist" award on stage during the free performance of "The Tempest" by the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival on July 16 at 7:30 in Cupertino's Memorial Park.

Further information about the annual Distinguished Artist award and the Shakespeare Festival performances is available from the Cupertino City Clerk's Office at 408.777.3224.

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