

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 24, 2008

CONTACT: Lucy Blake-Elahi, Exhibiting Artist / WLAC Instructor
(323) 299-0104 studio | (323) 829-5093 cell

Michelle Long-Coffee, Dir. PR & Advertising
(310) 287-4597 | longcofm@wla.edu
9000 Overland Ave. - Culver City, CA 90230



Art Exhibition March 31 – April 12 “THE RAPE OF THE SUMERIANS: LOOTING THE IRAQ MUSEUM”

Candlelight Vigil Thurs, Apr 10 to Commemorate 5th Anniversary of Museum Looting

This exhibition is the second presentation of Lucy Blake-Elahi's series: The Rape of the Sumerians: Looting the Iraq Museum.

The exhibition and reception on Thursday, April 10 are timed to connect with the international Candlelight Vigil to raise awareness about art theft in general and the damage to the Iraq Museum collection in particular. On April 10-12, organizations around the world will be joining together to commemorate the looting of the Iraq Museum. This year, the fifth anniversary of the looting of the Iraq Museum, more than 7,000 items (about 50%) have yet to be recovered and archaeological sites throughout the country continue to suffer from the irreparable damage of wide-scale looting.

Professor Donny George Youkhanna, Director of the Iraq Museum, Baghdad for 30 years, has said of Blake-Elahi's work:

“After seeing your works of art about the looting of the museum, I feel we are very close, as if you have personalized my feelings, thank you very much for this noble [work].”

(Dr. George was fired from his Museum Directorship because he is Christian, not Muslim. He is currently Visiting Professor, Department of Asian and Asian American Studies at State University of New York, Stony Brook.)

In addition to being an art instructor at West Los Angeles College, Blake-Elahi's work has been exhibited in galleries and museums in Los Angeles, New York, and Switzerland and in many corporate, private and public collections such as Gibraltar Savings and Loan, and the Aaron Spelling Collection. She is a Los Angeles Artist living and working in the LAX-adjacent area. Blake-Elahi is a graduate of Pratt Institute, Brooklyn and State University of New York, New Paltz. She has also been an art instructor at UCLA's Graduate Art Education Department and was an artist-in-residence in Yellowstone National Park.



EXHIBITION: March 31 – April 12, 2008 | Hours: M-Th 11am – 3pm; Sat & Sun 1pm – 4pm

RECEPTION: Thursday, April 10 – 4pm – 9pm
7pm – Presentation & Candlelight Vigil
Speakers: Dr. Alice Taylor, Fine Arts & Humanities, WLAC
& Lucy Blake-Elahi, artist, Art History Instructor, WLAC

The WLAC Art Gallery - Fine Arts Complex, FA 100
9000 Overland Ave (between Slauson & Jefferson), Culver City, CA 90230

###