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**UNIQUE ART CENTER GALLERY PROGRAM PRESENTS
NEW MODEL FOR COMMUNICATING SCIENCE**

**DEBUT OF *WORLDS* EXHIBITION
INCLUDES LOCAL, NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS**

(Pasadena, CALIF.) November 1, 2011 – SCIENCE, so the stereotype goes, seeks to reduce the world to nothing more than a set of facts – a pejorative cliché meant to imply that science divests reality of its grace. “Not so,” says Stephen Nowlin, director of the Alyce de Roulet Williamson Gallery, “it uses facts to unveil and probe the deepest mysteries of existence. Science has a popular patina of factual certainty, but beneath that luster its process consists of foraging and groping, being messy, and tentative. Science is the new art.”

The Williamson Gallery is located at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California, where Nowlin’s latest exhibition is called *WORLDS* – a look at how humans understand and mis-understand the Earth and its neighboring planets, their moons, and beyond.

A meditation on contemporary art, astronomy, and human perspective, *WORLDS* exposes a poetic dimension that lies at the core of rigorous and unapologetic science. As such, the exhibition presents an alternative means of communicating science to public audiences, a non-didactic, non-pedagogical model of presentation better described as being akin to an art installation than to a science museum display. “If you want to ignite peoples’ curiosity about themselves and their world,” Nowlin says, “and as a society we had better want to do that -- you need to stir their emotions when it comes to science. The science community

has not done a very good job of recognizing or exporting the emotional side of rational inquiry. When emotion is what pulls one into an engagement with science, an appreciation and love for reason is likely to follow."

WORLDS includes contemporary art, sculpture, video, sound, and large-scale installations by New York artists Richard Selesnick and Nicholas Kahn, the London artist team of Ruth Jarman and Joe Gerhardt known as "semiconductor," Northern California photographer Darin Boville, and Southern California artists Jonathan Cecil, Michael C. McMillen, Rebeca Mendez, and Steve Roden. The exhibition also presents artifacts from science, including data visualizations by British animator Adrian Lark, NASA HiRise Mars altimeter imagery, NASA spacecraft imagery, meteorites, as well as science fiction video. In addition, high-resolution prints of historical astronomical book sketches by Galilo Galilei, Nicolaus Copernicus, and other seminal astronomers, have been scanned and drawn from the rare-book collection of the Huntington Library especially for display in *WORLDS*. An estimated forty works by as many as fifteen artists and scientists are featured.

"There are massive chunks of floating matter nearby, in addition to the one on which we live," writes Nowlin in his catalogue essay, "other worlds to complement the ephemeral worlds of our mind – physical worlds of mystery and a strangeness more real than anything imagined. They have been the stuff of mathematical scrutiny and creative speculation for centuries. These are the worlds of the *WORLDS* exhibition."

WORLDS continues now through January 15, 2012.

The Alyce de Roulet Williamson Gallery at Art Center College of Design is located at 1700 Lida Street in Pasadena, California. Gallery hours are noon to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. The gallery stays open late on Fridays until 9:00 p.m, and is closed on Mondays.

Art Center's campus will be closed for the 2011 holidays beginning Thursday, December 22, and will reopen on Tuesday, January 3. The Williamson Gallery will be open during this time by appointment only. For additional gallery information, group tours information,

and visits by appointment, please call 626.396.2397.

Williamson Gallery exhibitions are funded in part by the Williamson Gallery Patrons and a grant from the Pasadena Art Alliance.

About the Alyce de Roulet Williamson Gallery

The Alyce de Roulet Williamson Gallery at Art Center College of Design has established a broad reputation for its ongoing series of exhibitions superimposing the boundaries, relationships, and perspectives of art and science.

Recent exhibitions in the series include *HYPERBOLIC: Reefs, Rubbish, and Reason*, an exhibition of mathematics, ocean ecology, and crochet handicraft; *ENERGY*, a composite engagement with art, science, history, and poetry around the theme of natural forces; *OBSERVE*, a collaboration between invited artists and scientists at the NASA/JPL-Caltech Spitzer Space Telescope; *In The Dermisphere*, a look at the art and natural history of skin; *TOOLS*, an exploration of the art and science of extensions to human biology; *EAR(TH)*, a sound installation by artist Steve Roden using satellite data of Earth tectonics as a score; and *NEURO*, a collaboration between invited artists and scientists at Caltech's Center for Neuromorphic Systems Engineering. Media art pioneers featured in solo exhibitions have included Michael Naimark, Paul DeMarinis, Jim Campbell, and Jennifer Steinkamp, among others. In addition the gallery has organized solo exhibitions of notable artists from around the world, including James Rosenquist, Robert Morris, Sol LeWitt, Judy Pfaff, David Hockney, Donald Judd, and Wayne Theibaud; designers Massimo Vignelli, Ivan Chermayeff, and Milton Glaser; photographer Philippe Halsman; architect Robert Venturi and the collective Archigram. For Google links to the Williamson Gallery art/science programs, visit williamsongallery.net/google.

About Art Center College of Design

Founded in 1930 and located in Pasadena, California, Art Center College of Design is a global leader in art and design education and the first design school to receive the United

Nations' Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) status. Art Center offers bachelor's degrees in advertising, entertainment design, environmental design, film, fine art, graphic design, illustration, photography and imaging, product design, and transportation design. A graduate program of study can lead to a master's degree in art, broadcast cinema, industrial design, and media design. The college also offers a series of programs for the general public, including Art Center at Night for continuing studies program; Saturday High for high school students; Art Center for Kids for children in the fourth through eighth grades; and the Design-Based Learning program for K-12 educators.

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