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## The Cult of Potato Opens at Las Vegas Contemporary Arts Collective

*January 17, 2005 (Las Vegas, NV)* – The Las Vegas Contemporary Arts Collective announces **The Cult of Potato** exhibit Friday, February 4, 2005 through March 5, 2005. A free World Tour Premiere Party takes place Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup> from 6-10pm. **The Cult of Potato** exhibit is presented by the International Potato Arts Collective, which consists of artists from around the world who have come together to celebrate the splendor of the spud through art. This exhibit kicks off a world tour that includes future exhibits in St. Louis, Missouri, Long Island, New York, and Rotterdam, Holland.

Humble gems of the underground and a long-time food staple of common folks, the International Potato Arts Collective believes that the brown dusty orb is a symbol of sharing art, life, food, and friendship. In an effort to pay homage to everyday things and the low art of living, the artists share the fruits of their artistic labor without pretense.

Participating artists include:

- **Jeffrey Allen Price**, founder of the semi-annual *Think Potato Festival* held in Long Island, New York with its fifth event happening in 2006. This egalitarian non-profit event focuses on potato awareness, families, community, charity, and art and has been featured in The Food Network's *Unwrapped* show, the New York Times, and Newsday.
- **Andrea Avery**, co-director of Mad Art Gallery in St. Louis, Missouri which presents contemporary art and performances from a restored art deco police station. Avery also serves as director of *Art Outside*, an alternative arts festival and works as a freelance events planning and promotion consultant for several arts organizations.
- **Nina Ganci**, owner and head designer for SKIF International, a fashion design studio headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri. Active in the local art community, Ganci produces and participates in shows throughout the St. Louis area, including many for charitable causes.
- **Rebecca Stees**, owner and director of Art Yowza, a visual art experience for adults and children. Art Yowza offers theme-based camps that encourage creative thinking and fun in the Bay Area, Northern California.

- **Michiel Brink**, graphic designer and founder of the Rotterdam-based band, *The Potato Eaters*, which performed at the 2004 *Think Potato Festival* in Long Island. Brink produces a potato art magazine, *Me and My Potato* and has a CD of potato-inspired songs.

A Potato Mash Bash (Martini Mixer) will take place on Thursday, February 3, 2005 along with a Potato Love Chat and Brunch with the artists on Sunday, February 6,th from 11am-1pm.

The Contemporary Arts Collective is a non-profit art organization dedicated to presenting new, high-quality, visual, and performing art, while striving to build, educate, and sustain audiences for contemporary art. The CAC strives to provide a place where artists can learn about best practices, test new ideas in the public arena, and connect with fellow artists within and beyond our own community.