

LINDA VALLEJO

ARTIST STATEMENT

“Spirits of Los Angeles”

The Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG) 2008

curated by Raoul de la Sota

“The spirit of Los Angeles can be found in its landscape.” Linda Vallejo, 2008

A Prayer for the Earth combines paintings of the Los Angeles landscape representing its beauty and spirit; earth-based sculpture expressing a natural symbiotic relationship; a “mandala” with images of pollution juxtaposed with indigenous cultures in the act of ceremony and prayer; surrounded by the cardinal elements of earth, water, fire and air. Accompanying digital sculptures. *The Ferris Wheel* and *The Rocket* expose the absurdity and complexity of modern life in the face of devastating pollution and destruction of natural resources.

My work investigates humanity’s intrinsic relationship with nature, and conversely, the destruction of the natural world through pollution. This work is deeply influenced by Ana Mendieta’s use of natural materials with photography, Lee Bontecou’s nature-inspired “crystalline” forms, the sensual power of Georgia O’Keefe’s landscapes, and contemporary indigenous philosophy and symbolism.

A Prayer for the Earth focuses on environmental issues and spiritual ideals combining paintings to represent the beauty of nature; earth-based and mixed-media sculpture focusing on a oneness with or separation from nature; a central “mandala” depicting the devastation of pollution, and international indigenous cultures in the act of ceremony and prayer; all surrounded by the fundamental symbols of earth, water, fire and air.

Accompanying Prayer is *Ferris Wheel* a digitally based work seeking to reveal the comical complexity of postmodern life juxtaposed with the tragic abuse of nature. *The Ferris Wheel* reminds us that war is not child’s play. At first, we are drawn to an image that recalls the innocence and joy of childhood, only to be faced with a portrait of death. Our only escape is through nature’s beauty and spirit. *A Prayer for the Earth* Installation and *The Rocket* continue this discussion by exposing the complexity and absurdity of modern life and the destruction of pollution.

My goal is to create works that communicate the idea that without nature humanity, history, culture and knowledge as we know it are lost; that nature is the thread that encircles and describes us all.