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Contact: Sonja Cendak
323.937.4230 x25
sonja@cafam.org

**An American Love Story opens at CAFAM
February 3 to May 6, 2007**

A Quaker childhood in small town America, the flea markets of Los Angeles, a 6th grade valentine—these are a few of the poignant inspirations in the artwork of Ramona Otto. A native of Grinnell, Iowa, resident of Los Angeles since 1987, Ramona Otto’s artistic career began on a dare from her husband, challenging her to create something out of a flea market find. What has resulted is a whimsical journey of artistic output that reflects Otto’s love of American history, vintage furniture, and handmade arts. A selection of her most fascinating pieces are showcased in ***An American Love Story: Works by Ramona Otto*** at the Craft and Folk Art Museum from February 3 to May 6, 2007.

Created from hundreds of found objects and recycled materials, Otto’s art is rooted in traditional Americana themes such as flags, hearts, and hands. On the back of each piece one finds a “Treasure List” that narrates the history of each element. Artwork on display include a bookshelf constructed from vintage schoolhouse rulers, a dresser collaged from recycled tin cans, a table created of Scrabble pieces, as well as a sampling of over 20 years of handmade valentine’s to her husband. Despite having no formal art school training, Ramona’s artworks are imaginative and witty expressions that capture the delight of secret surprises and rediscovered treasures.

“Through my art,” states the artist, “I am able to model creative thinking, the importance of humor, and a sense of passion and fun that comes from being a lifelong learner.”

An **opening reception** for *An American Love Story: Works by Ramona Otto* will take place on **Saturday, February 3, 2007, 6pm – 8pm** at CAFAM. An artists’ talk with Ramona Otto will take place on **Sunday, February 25 at 3pm** at CAFAM.

******Images available upon request******

About The Craft and Folk Art Museum

Founded in 1965, the Craft and Folk Art Museum (CAFAM) is a Los Angeles nonprofit cultural arts organization dedicated to the public presentation and preservation of folk arts and contemporary craft. As a local Museum with global reach, CAFAM seeks to promote international goodwill and global understanding among its citizens. The Museum works to preserve and strengthen the folk culture of our community based on its belief that the quality of urban life is directly related to the vitality and diversity of viewpoints and traditions.

Craft and Folk Art Museum

5814 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90036

Tel: 323-937-4230 / www.cafam.org

Museum Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 11 am – 5 pm

Thursday 11 am – 7 pm

Saturday and Sunday 12 – 6 pm

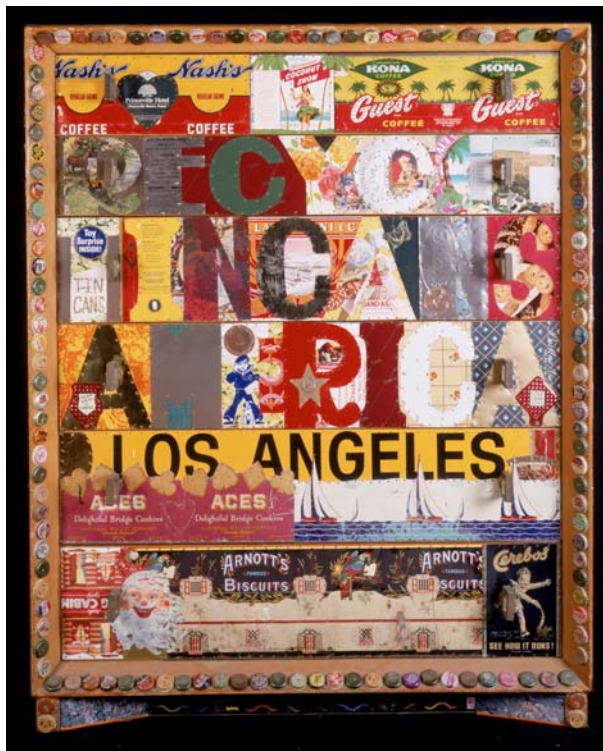
Museum Admission

General \$5.00 / Students and Seniors 3.00 / Members and Children under 12 Free / Free 1st Wednesday of month



Ramona Otto
Art is a Dangerous Job but Someone Has to Do It, 1990s

Recycled doodads, vintage wooden frame on a recycled board.
 Image courtesy of the artist



Ramona Otto
Recycle Tin Cans, America (front of dresser), 1998

Vintage tins collected from yard sales and flea markets, brass brads, on a 1950's oak hotel dresser purchased from the Salvation Army Thrift Store, Santa Monica.
 Image courtesy of the artist