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MUSEUM ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION OF DIANA DU PONT, CURATOR OF MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART

August 8, 2007 – The Santa Barbara Museum of Art (SBMA) and curator Diana du Pont today announced her resignation as Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art. Du Pont, who joined the Museum in 1992 as Curator of 20th Century Art, developed a dynamic program of exhibitions and acquisitions in European, American, and Latin American art during her curatorial tenure. She reorganized the Museum's growing modern and contemporary collection and oversaw its acquisitions, such as the landmark mural *Portrait of Mexico Today*, 1932, by David Alfaro Siqueiros. She also organized numerous exhibitions including the recent major traveling exhibition, *Tamayo: A Modern Icon Reinterpreted* with co-curator Juan Carlos Pereda of the Museo Tamayo.

“Over her fifteen years with the Museum, Diana has created innovative, themed exhibitions of the permanent collection and major reinstallations of SBMA's rich and varied holdings; made noteworthy acquisitions; and both conceived and executed special exhibitions for SBMA, several accompanied by significant scholarly publications,” said SBMA Director Phillip Johnston. “We are grateful to Diana for her many contributions and accomplishments and wish her every success in the future.”

“Serving the Santa Barbara Museum of Art has been a wonderful professional experience. I am proud to have helped the institution in its efforts to evolve into one of the leading art museums in the west. With the recent international success of the traveling *Tamayo* exhibition, I believe we have taken another major step together in that direction,” said Du Pont. “I consider this to be the perfect moment to pursue the many art exhibition and publication projects that I have been contemplating- including translating Tamayo's writings into English- and to explore teaching opportunities in the area of curatorial practice. On the personal side, I have already begun to direct my lifelong passion and involvement in the equestrian community into a major publication entitled *Thoroughbreds and the Art of Dressage*.”

Diana du Pont

After receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Art History from Scripps College, Diana earned her Master's in Art History from the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to her 15 year stint at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, she held positions as curator in the department of photography of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and curator of exhibitions at the University Art Museum at California State University, Long Beach.

Santa Barbara Museum of Art

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art is a privately funded not-for-profit institution that provides internationally recognized collections and exhibitions and a broad array of cultural and educational activities as well as travel opportunities around the world.