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SAINT LOUIS
UNIVERSITY

Museum of Contemporary
Religious Art (MOCRA)

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MOCRA observes Day With(out) Art with *Silver Clouds* and photographic presentation

Day With(out) Art at MOCRA — December 1, 2006

ST. LOUIS, Missouri – Saint Louis University’s Museum of Contemporary Religious Art (MOCRA) will observe **Day With(out) Art on December 1, 2006**, with extended hours from **11 a.m. to 6 p.m.** and a special photographic presentation. In addition to the continuing installation of Andy Warhol’s *Silver Clouds*, MOCRA will project images from the series *Living Proof* by photographer Carolyn Jones. The exhibition and observance are free and open to the public. More information is available at **(314) 977-7170** or **<http://mocra.slu.edu>**.

The 1992–93 *Living Proof* project is a suite of positive portraits of people with HIV/AIDS—people who did not experience their diagnosis as an imminent death sentence. Though the dynamics of the HIV/AIDS epidemic have shifted in the intervening years, the images and their accompanying stories are as fresh and compelling now as when they were first published in 1994. The creative force behind the images is Carolyn Jones, whose wide-ranging career in photography and film includes stints shooting for national magazines like *Esquire* and *Details* and directing projects for PBS and Oxygen. MOCRA has five prints from *Living Proof* in its collection, and has arranged with Jones to project additional portraits in its nave gallery for this Day With(out) Art observance.

The *Living Proof* images complement MOCRA’s installation of Andy Warhol’s *Silver Clouds*, the mercurial and buoyant pillow-shaped silver mylar balloons that roam the air currents of MOCRA’s spacious nave gallery. MOCRA Director Rev. Terrence Dempsey, S.J., notes that “for many of our visitors who have confronted serious illness, the *Silver Clouds* have served as a tangible embodiment of the letting go of pain and the hope of healing. On December 1, we invite all those who have experienced HIV and AIDS in some way, to come to MOCRA and share in that experience of hope and healing.”

Day With(out) Art has been observed by galleries and museums annually since 1989 on December 1, World AIDS Day, in recognition of the striking impact of HIV/AIDS on the creative community. Originally called simply “Day Without Art,” the parentheses were added to emphasize the more active approach being taken in many venues—rather than the simple removal of artwork. MOCRA hosted Day Without Art events in 1994 and 2000 that brought together members of the St. Louis visual and performing arts communities.

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About the Museum of Contemporary Religious Art (MOCRA)

Saint Louis University's Museum of Contemporary Religious Art (MOCRA) is the world's first interfaith museum of contemporary religious and spiritual art. Officially opened in 1993, MOCRA is dedicated to the ongoing dialogue between contemporary artists and the world's faith traditions. Located in a spacious chapel that was used for over 35 years by Jesuits studying philosophy at Saint Louis University, MOCRA offers a unique, meditative setting for the display of its permanent collection and changing exhibitions. MOCRA's exhibitions demonstrate the range of contemporary religious and spiritual artistic expression, presenting the work of artists of regional, national and international stature.

Regular museum hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is free. MOCRA is located at 3700 West Pine Mall on the campus of Saint Louis University in midtown St. Louis. Free group tours are available, and MOCRA makes every effort to help educators and group organizers to incorporate its exhibitions into curricula and programming. Please call 314.977.7170 for directions, parking information and all other inquiries, or e-mail the museum at mocra@slu.edu, or visit <http://mocra.slu.edu>.

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