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NEWS RELEASE

July 12, 2005

Cupertino Names 'Distinguished Artist'

The city's Fine Arts Commission has selected Janet Leong Malan, a Cupertino artist, as the 2005 "Distinguished Artist of the Year."

Originally running her own graphic design business with clientele that included Sunset Magazine, Hewlett-Packard, and the Saga Corporation, Malan gradually transitioned into ceramics. She says that her experience as a graphic designer continues to have a tremendous impact on her work as a artist working in clay.

A child of Chinese immigrants, Malan draws upon personal experiences and everyday surroundings as a source of inspiration. The resulting works have ranged from "Epicenter" inspired by the perpetual potential of earthquakes in California, to the conflicts between the Chinese and American cultures. She also likes to play with words and inject a sense of humor into her work.

Her professional experience includes art instruction for the Cupertino Union School District and the Euphrat Museum, as well as being the owner and principal designer of her own design studio. Malan has received a number of awards for her work.

Previous Distinguished Artist award winners include painter Kate Curry, painter & photographer Constance Guidotti, ceramic artist Mahoko Dahte, singer-composer Robert L. Harrison, visual and performing artist Ann Stamm Merrill; pianist Makiko Ooka, and visual artist Sara Loesch Frank.

The Cupertino Fine Arts Commission will present the "Distinguished Artist" award to Malan at 7 p.m., Sunday, July 17, before the performance of Free Shakespeare in the Park at Cupertino's Memorial Park.

Further information about the annual Distinguished Artist award is available from the Cupertino City Clerk's Office at 408.777.3223, or visit http://www.cupertino.org/city_government/commissions/fine_arts_commission/distinguished_artist/ for more information on Malan and for photos of her work.

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