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Poet Laureate, Legendary Dance Co. Featured at International Arts Movement's Encounter 09
"Art in Action" Conference Includes Workshops, Master Classes, Juried Competitions and Performances

NEW YORK, NY - November 7, 2008 - Art, faith and humanity will be the focus when International Arts Movement descends on lower Manhattan for IAM's 2009 Encounter, "Art in Action," February 26-28. Workshops, master classes, juried competitions and an evening performance series will feature influential artists and creative catalysts, including former US Poet Laureate Billy Collins and the legendary Limon Dance.

Also appearing are jazz pianist Helen Sung, visual artist Eva Flatscher, painter Makoto Fujimura, philosopher Nicholas Wolterstorff, PhD, Susan Isaacs (*My Name is Earl*, *Seinfeld*, *Angry Conversations With God*), journalist Alice Rhee, filmmaker Sarah Hanssen and journalist/philanthropist Roberta Ahmanson.

Juried competitions are presently open for submissions. Guidelines are available at www.iamencounter.com, and writers, musicians and artists working in any media are invited to submit.

Workshops dealing with professional, philosophical and pragmatic aspects of the arts, faith and humanity will be offered, facilitated by professionals from a variety of backgrounds. Master classes in writing and music will also be available.

Rounding out the three-day Encounter will be art exhibits, film screenings and networking opportunities.

The IAM Encounter is a conference aimed at inspiring the creative community to engage the culture that is and create the world that ought to be, a world of hope, beauty, truth, reconciliation, peace and excellence. By creating space for dialogue, critical feedback, exhibition and inspiration, artists are challenged, sharpened and equipped to excel, regardless of their craft.

Past Encounters featured Ground Zero Architect Daniel Liebeskind, NEA Chairman Dana Gioia, Emmy-winner Patricia Heaton, and Yale theologian Miroslav Volf, PhD, and have drawn people from thirty-nine states and eleven nations.

Encounter 09 "Art in Action" happens February 26-28 at the Downtown Conference Center and BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Center. More at www.iamencounter.com.

ABOUT INTERNATIONAL ARTS MOVEMENT

International Arts Movement, founded by Makoto Fujimura seventeen years ago, is a non-profit arts organization that gathers artists and creative catalysts to wrestle with the deep questions of art, faith and humanity. In addition to the annual Encounter, IAM holds exhibitions, performances, readings, salons, film screenings and discussion groups at IAM's venue, Space 38|39, located in the heart of Manhattan.

For more information about International Arts Movement, visit www.internationalartsmovement.org.

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