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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 22, 2006

## **DUAL EXHIBITS OF NEW WORK FROM HAWAI'I ARTISTS IN THE SCHAEFER INTERNATIONAL GALLERY**

The Maui Arts & Cultural Center is pleased to present two exhibits of Hawai'i artists, presenting new works in the Schaefer International Gallery, running September 2-October 1.

Hawai'i Island artist **Stephen Freedman** is known for an impressive range of work. This exhibit features stacked clay totems, and large pottery vessels which have been bent, shaped and pierced with lyric design and text.

In his statement for the current exhibit, Freedman says: "Many of the concepts which have engaged me during my career were seeded by my early childhood in South Africa. My grandparents had migrated from Russia to avoid the persecution that had defined the recent history of Jews in Europe. My father became a biologist, working with now mythological figures in the field of human evolutionary study, such as Raymond Dart, Louis Leaky and John Robinson. My Mother's interest in pottery began in Africa, offering me a medium, while my father's pursuit of the principles of evolution imprinted the way I subsequently perceived the world."

Maui artist **Ron Smith** presents a body of work which explores iconic symbols and imagery, with humorous, visually stimulating and thought-provoking results. Two- and three-dimensional works are included, in a range of materials from wood to aluminum, bronze, steel and neon.

Smith describes his new work as "visually visceral with mystery"; line, shape and color are strong attributes of his current format. A good portion of Smith's work is achieved with neon glass-bending in colorful optical lines. This nearly-lost art method consists of first generating a computer drawing, laying out a working pattern, bending the glass tube, processing the neon units with a combination of high voltage and vacuum pumps, and finally using argon and neon gases to determine the final colors. Using an assembly line approach – influenced by five years working at an automobile factory – combined with an apprenticeship at a neon sign shop and an influential undergraduate professor, the artist merges two worlds: industry and art.

The Schaefer International Gallery is open Tuesday – Sunday, 11:00 am – 5:00 pm, and is also open before Castle Theater shows and during intermissions. Admission is FREE!

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