

**For Immediate Release: New Meditation Center & Art Installation for Dharma Punx in LA**

<b>Event:</b>	<b>Metal Artist to Create Installation for Meditation Center</b>
<b>Artist:</b>	<b>Miya Ando</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>Against The Stream 4300 Melrose Ave Los Angeles, CA 90027</b>
<b>Dates</b>	<b>Nov 8, 2008- Early 2009</b>

(Los Angeles, California)

**A historic building in East Hollywood is now home to the Dharma Punx.** On the corner of Melrose and Berendo, nestled among small restaurants, bakeries and shops, the Against The Stream Buddhist Meditation Society has opened a new Meditation Center.

Noah Levine's (author of Dharma Punx and Against The Stream) community based, non profit organization the Against The Stream Buddhist Meditation Society has come to one of the most ethnically diverse neighborhoods in the city. Dedicated to making the teachings of the Buddha available to all, the Meditation Center offers classes that do not require registration and forgo fees for a donate-as-you-can policy.

Raw and airy, their new location opened to the public earlier this year. **Keeping in tune with the organization's mission, minimalist artist Miya Ando has been commissioned to help create a non-denominational environment.**

**About the Artwork:**

California/ New York based artist Miya Ando has been creating works on steel canvases for the past eleven years. Utilizing a technique honed over the past decade, Ando is able to tint, polish, refine and ultimately create layered depth into a flat metal plane.

Representing physical, emotional and spiritual landscapes, the elements of Ando's compositions are akin to the Meditation Center's. A practicing Buddhist herself, Ando's art is both meditative and a tribute to honoring, respecting and nourishing.

Ando's commission for Against The Stream Buddhist Meditation Society consists of a grid of eight steel square canvases measuring four feet each. The configuration is a metaphor for the Dharma Wheel and the 8-fold path. The surface of the squares' metal material reflects this special organization's powerful, sincere and inspiring integrity. The art focuses on the pure intentions of its setting.

A benefit for The Meditation Center is planned in conjunction with completion of their art commission in early 2009 where pieces donated by Ando will be available.

**About the Artist:**

"My reasons for working with steel are multifold: since the first time I started to work with the medium, I felt a deep appreciation for the dynamic properties of the material. It simultaneously conveys strength and permanence and yet in the same instant appears delicate, fragile, luminous, soft, ethereal. I view the steel as a platform and foundation which supports the aesthetics of the abstract concepts I have been investigating. The medium becomes both a contradiction and juxtaposition for expressing notions of evanescence, including ideas such as the transitory and ephemeral nature of all things, quietude and the

underlying impermanence of everything." - Miya Ando, 2008

**About Against The Stream Buddhist Meditation Society:**

"Our intention is simple- To make the teachings of the Buddha available to all who are interested. We wish only to create and sustain communities of healthy, accountable wise and compassionate people from every walk of life. We are pro-diversity and welcome all people from all racial, economic, sexual, social and political back grounds and preferences. We believe that the path of awakening is attainable by all and should be available to all." – Against The Stream Buddhist Meditation Society, 2008 (excerpt from full text at: <http://www.againstthestream.org>)

**About the Meditation Center:**

"One of our main intentions in opening the Center is to foster a sense of community and to provide a gathering place for like-minded individuals to meditate, to learn, to share and to have fun. The three jewels of Buddhism are Buddha, Dharma and Sangha. We now have a physical location for our Sangha to grow..." – Against The Stream Buddhist Meditation Society, 2008 (excerpt from full text at: <http://www.againstthestream.org>)

For more information:

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