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November 1, 2008

LOT 44 COFFEE GALLERY PRESENTS “PALO VERDE,” AN INAUGURAL ART EXHIBITION FEATURING ARTIST ADAM LEWIS SMITH

Lot 44 Coffee Gallery presents an exhibition of new photographic artworks by Adam Lewis Smith from Thursday, November 13th through December, 31st, 2008. Lot 44 Coffee Gallery and curator Lui Sánchez welcome Adam Lewis Smith as the first artist to inaugurate the gallery. An opening reception for the artist will be on Thursday, November 13th from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. to coincide with the Downtown LA Artwalk. Lot 44 Coffee Gallery is located at 257 S. Spring St, Los Angeles, 90012.

As part of the burgeoning cultural and commercial revitalization that Downtown LA is presently under, the Lot 44 Coffee is one establishment that has brought an eclectic yet “serious cup of Joe” to downtown denizens. To add to this tantalizing sensory experience, owner Ariel Graham now invigorates the optical senses of her patrons by providing first rate fine art. Graham remarks that “coffee and art have had a long history together beginning with the first intellectual and creative gatherings held in the early Vienna coffee houses. We are glad to reinvigorate that tasteful and artistic relationship here at Lot 44 Coffee.” Graham also wants to let art-seekers know that quality art can be found in other areas of downtown besides the bustling arts district area off 5th and Main. With that in mind the Lot 44 Coffee Gallery has joined the monthly Downtown LA Artwalk with this exhibition. Graham says that, “we have our own artistic downtown nook to investigate. With neighboring galleries like the Morono Kiang, Cold Spring Fine

Art, and Art Slave, we are able to service the customers that visit the high-end retail area of 3rd and Spring. We invite the downtown art-walkers to come our way and enjoy the quality art and the quality coffee bar now on the Artwalk's menu."

Featured artist for the first Lot 44 Coffee Gallery exhibition will be Adam Lewis Smith. Recognized as a "Photographer of the American Natural," Smith, an accomplished outdoorsman and 6th generation Southern California native, possesses and maintains a genuine and tender enthusiasm for nature, wildlife, and the environment in which life dwells. The exhibition at the Lot 44 Coffee Gallery will allow Smith to bring inside some of that vast outdoor world with a series of artworks which he calls "photographic composite-mosaics." With Palo Verde, Smith's fascination with the patterned detail found in nature is exemplified as he uses multiple images of his subject: the *palo verde*. He accentuates the natural patterns, colors and textures of the tree bark and methodically arranges and weaves them into composite artworks as part of his photographic series called Desert Tapestries. His eye for detail brings to our eyes a vivid illustration of the endless unfolding richness of nature. "Tree bark has an amazing overlap of pattern, texture and color," remarks Smith. "Bark is one of those instances in nature that constantly paints itself over time, revealing intricate design and depth of color." Smith's Palo Verde series indeed captures those moments of overlap as layers of aged bark with new growth become an artistic re-generation; a metaphor not lost on the re-generation of downtown Los Angeles.

For more information on Adam Lewis Smith please visit www.naturereinvented.com .

For more information on Lot 44 Coffee please visit www.lot44coffee.com .

Artwork images available.

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