



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SACRAMENTO POET LAUREATE PROGRAM RELEASES POETRY
PLAYING CARDS WITH A UNIQUE TWIST**

Sacramento, CA — The **Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission (SMAC)** proudly announces the release of the **“Poets On Deck”** playing card project. The playing cards will be released at a 2nd Saturday celebration at the Art Foundry Gallery located at 10th and R Streets on October 11th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The release will also include an exhibit of all the original poets’ portraits created by Sacramento artist, Suzanne Johnson. The **“Poets on Deck”** playing cards and the original portraits will be available for purchase on October 11th.

The idea for this innovative project comes from Sacramento’s current Poet Laureate, Julia Connor. **“Poets on Deck”**, a standard sized deck of playing cards, includes several unique features: original art by Julia Connor on the uniform side of each card, fifty-two portraits of poets drawn by artist Suzanne Johnson and poetry excerpted from their work. The two joker cards feature four portraits of non-poets whose generosity support the poetry community.

Poet Laureate, Julia Connor comments, **“We all had a great time creating **“Poets on Deck”**. I worked with a dedicated committee of volunteers and the SMAC staff to conceptualize and execute this project. There are so many amazing poets in our area that we really had to focus on one time period to create the deck. The vision of this project is to celebrate and educate the public about the history of the Sacramento poets we call the **“first wave”**; those active in the creation and solidification of the poetry scene in Sacramento leading up to and including the founding of Sacramento Poetry Center.”**

Limited quantities of cards have been created for sale at several locations in Sacramento just in time for the holiday season. Find them at:

Art Foundry Gallery

Crocker Art Museum Gift Store

-MORE-

California Museum of Women Gift Store
Time Tested Books

For additional information regarding “**Poets on Deck**”, The Sacramento Poet Laureate Program, or other SMAC programs, please visit www.sacmetroarts.org or contact SMAC staff at 916.566.3992.

SMAC, a City/County agency, works to advance community through arts and culture.

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