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MONIKA STEINER: THE FIFTH ELEMENT

MUSEUM OF ART

April 6 – 30, 2012

(San Luis Obispo, CA) Ancient philosopher's believed AETHER was a non-material fifth element. The only non-terrestrial element (water, fire, earth and air), it floated above as the clear pure essence where the gods lived and was what they breathed, analogous to the air breathed by mortals. Invisible, aether permeated the universe and was caused to rotate in perfect circles when the weight of the heavier water and earth elements passed by the rising elements of air and fire.

Although the theory lacked scientific viability it did capture how we sense harmony when opposing forces are in equilibrium, and how the unseen aspects of life, like abstract art, express what can't be understood by the eyes and mind, yet, can be clearly felt. A new exhibit at the Museum of Art, THE FIFTH ELEMENT, April 6 – 30, 2012 brings San Francisco based artist Monika Steiner's exploration of this metaphysical subject. Balance in this series is created by contrast, texture and drips interacting with each painting's lighter elements. Aether's circular characteristic is represented as spheres, nature's most efficient shape (requiring the least amount of structure to enclose the greatest possible volume) — their elegance conjuring entities as massive as planets all the way down to the shape of sub-atomic particles.

Born in Switzerland, Ms. Steiner received her BFA degree from Sonoma State University. Her work has been shown nationally and internationally in galleries, museums, and public exhibitions. A reception to meet Ms. Steiner will take places on

Friday, April 6, 6 – 9 pm in conjunction with Art After Dark. Her work can be seen at monikasteiner.com.

NOTES:

Plato described aether as "that which God used in the delineation of the universe."

Aristotle suggested that aether had no qualities (was neither hot, cold, wet, or dry), was incapable of change (with the exception of change of place), and by its nature moved in circles, and had no contrary, or unnatural, motion.

Robert Fludd stated that aether was "subtler than light".

The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and exhibiting the visual arts. Located at 1010 Broad Street, on the west end of Mission Plaza. Hours arMarch 9, 2012e 11 – 5 daily. Closed Tuesdays. Free admission, donations appreciated.

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