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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 23, 2007

FAST FORWARD: TWISTERS AND TORNADOS BY SUSAN SILTON DEPICTS THE POWER OF STORMS AGAINST A BACKDROP OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND SHIFTING WEATHER PATTERNS

Contemporary photo exhibition intersects science and art



Susan Silton, *Twister 6*, 2003
Courtesy of the artist.

(Los Angeles, CA) Continuing its series of focused exhibitions that emphasize connections between nature and culture, the Natural History Museum will present ***Fast Forward: Twisters and Tornadoes by Susan Silton***, on view **April 6 through May 18, 2007**.

Susan Silton is fascinated by human attempts to control and classify forces of nature. This exhibition will present 17 works from two of the artist's photography series. For the series *Twisters*, Silton digitally manipulated photographs of funnel clouds taken by storm chasers, suggesting a typology of the beautiful shapes that tornadoes can take despite the destruction that is often left in their path. These intimate black-and-white prints, evocative of fine drawings, intersect science and aesthetics to create something exquisite.

The series *Tornado in a Jar* is comprised of stills taken from a film that the artist made while recording a popular science experiment: When water, soap and vinegar are vigorously shaken in a jar, a funnel is created – a sort of homemade tornado. These photographs reflect her imaginative attempt to recreate the forces of nature itself by capturing the spinning motion of such a storm.

Exploring the aesthetics of motion, Silton's photographs incorporate the energy of both the funnel and the atmosphere surrounding it. The artist gives us her view of the sublime aspects of tornadoes.

Powerful storms can have profound effects on habitats and the species that live in them, ultimately affecting local biodiversity and changes in weather patterns, and the

increasingly destructive power of such storms have been blamed upon global climate change. *Fast Forward* will open in conjunction with the April 6 *First Fridays* event, which will feature an examination of the impact of climate change on the natural and cultural worlds in the next century and possible solutions to managing and sustaining controlled climate.

About the artist

Silton, a photographer and video artist based in Los Angeles, has exhibited in solo and group exhibitions nationally and internationally including Angles Gallery, Santa Monica; Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects; Rosamund Felsen Gallery, Santa Monica; UCLA/Hammer Museum; Feigen Contemporary, New York; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the New Orleans Contemporary Art Museum and SITE Sante Fe. She is the recipient of several fellowships, including a Getty/California Community Foundation Fellowship in 2005, as well as awards and commissions from the Durfee Foundation and Clockshop Foundation. Her work has been published in *Cabinet* magazine, *Lesbian Art in America*, and in noted art historian Amelia Jones' most recent book, *Self/Image*.

About First Fridays

Now through June 1, the Natural History Museum stays open late on the first Friday of every month for *First Fridays*, a series of evening events. Created to engage the public in an open, dynamic and thought-provoking dialogue, the 2007 *First Fridays* series is entitled "The Diversity of Life." The interactive series presents a cross-section of contemporary perspectives on aspects of biodiversity and how it relates to our cultural world and daily lives. Each themed evening features a curator-guided tour through one of NHM's galleries, a moderator-led forum with today's top thinkers, scientists, environmentalists and authors followed by live performances by acclaimed musicians and DJs. For more information on the series, visit www.nhm.org/firstfridays or call (213) 763-DINO.

About the Museum

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County serves more than one million families and visitors annually, and is a national leader in research, exhibitions and education. The Museum is L.A.'s second oldest cultural institution, the first to open its doors to the public in 1913, and has amassed one of the world's most extensive and valuable collections of natural and cultural history – more than 33 million objects, some as old as 500 million years.

Museum admission is: Adults \$9 (two-for-one through June 30, 2007); Students, seniors and youths (13-17) \$6.50; Children (5-12) \$2. Museum members and children under 5, FREE.

Located at 900 Exposition Boulevard, the Museum is open seven days a week, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends and holidays. Museum hours are extended to 10:00 p.m. for each *First Fridays* event (January-June, 2007). For 24-hour Museum information please call (213) 763-DINO or visit the Museum's website at www.nhm.org.