

PRESS RELEASE
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John Chamberlain: Recent Sculpture
September 9 - October 9, 2004
Opening reception: Thursday, September 9,
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Venice, CA – L.A. Louver is pleased to present a selection of sculptures created by John Chamberlain over the past two years. The sculptures are made from chromium-plated steel and stainless steel.

Chamberlain employs the stainless steel exclusively in the two largest sculptures in the exhibition — Kickapoo Falls and Chicotimi Falls — folding and crunching thin metal strips into animated, fluid forms that conjure falling water. He then paints the steel with vibrant colors, in both opaque and transparent lacquers that allow the metal to retain its reflective qualities. While the sculptures may evoke representational elements, they are abstract at heart.

The sculptures are opulent and exuberant, appealing to both the viewer's mind and body. As the writer/ curator Klaus Kertess has stated, about this new work "Seldom has sculpture so physically embodied the free associativeness and combinative play so crucial to creative thinking visually and verbally."

Born in Rochester, Indiana, in 1927, John Chamberlain studied during the 1950s at The Art Institute of Chicago and Black Mountain College in North Carolina. During a career that has stretched over five decades, Chamberlain has exhibited extensively throughout the United States and Europe with work included in the São Paulo Bienal (1961 and 1994), the Venice Biennale (1964), the Whitney Biennial (1973 and 1987) and Documenta, Kassel, Germany in 1982. Although best known for his metal sculptures, Chamberlain has also worked in film, photography, foam, foil, ink, oil and Plexiglas. His work has been the subject of over one hundred solo exhibitions, including retrospectives at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York in 1971; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles in 1986; the Staatliche Kunsthalle, Baden-Baden and the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen, Dresden, Germany in 1991, and the Stedelijk Museum, The Netherlands in 1996.

John Chamberlain has been honored twice with the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, in 1966 and 1977. In 1990 he was elected a member of the American Academy and Institute of Art and Letters, New York. In 1993 he received the Skowhegan Medal for Sculpture, and in the same year was given a Lifetime Achievement Award in Contemporary Sculpture from the International Sculpture Center, Washington, D.C. More recent accolades include the National Arts Club Artists Award, New York in 1997, and the Distinction in

Sculpture Honor from the Sculpture Center, New York in 1999.

Chamberlain is represented in numerous private and public collections worldwide that include the Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna, Rome, Italy; the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; IVAM Centro Julio González, Valencia, Spain; the Los Angeles County Museum, CA; the Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden; the Musée Nationale d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Tate Gallery, London, Great Britain; the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, among many others.

A concurrent exhibition of new work by Charles Garabedian is on view in the first floor galleries.

For further information and visuals please contact Elizabeth East, telephone 310-822-4955; fax 310-821-7529; e-mail elizabeth@lalouver.com.