

Media Contact: Cynthia Fung
Phone: 949-497-0517
E-mail: cfung@sawdustartfestival.org

July 21, 2008
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SAWDUST ART FESTIVAL ACRYLIC ARTIST,
DOUG MILLER, PAINTS HIS 10,000TH PIECE**

Laguna Beach, Ca – Long time Sawdust Art Festival artist and exhibitor, Douglas Miller created his 10,000th original acrylic painting this year, which is currently on display at the 42nd annual summer show. The six by eight inch canvas, entitled “In My Studio, the Water Jar in Pot, Shells, and a Painting” which accurately describes the art piece, represents Miller’s growth and development as a veteran Laguna Beach artist.

Following Picasso’s prolific spirit, Miller has produced 10,158 paintings, and has reached this extraordinary number by dedicating a portion of each day – since December of 1994 – to his painting. Miller, whether sick or on vacation, said this has helped him become, not only a better artist, but also a painter with great insight. “I gain more fluidity by painting so many. I am faster at what I do. I know what colors to use and often know what the painting will look like before it’s done.” Comparing his 1st painting to his 10,000th Miller acknowledges his artwork has become more colorful, alive and detailed during that time.

Miller’s paintings are inspired by his surroundings, mostly Laguna Beach scenery and his life at the Sawdust Art Festival, and he paints things as he sees them, sometimes relying on one of the over 750,000 photos he’s taken. “I paint in the now, and I don’t like to paint anything I haven’t seen or places I haven’t been to myself.”

(Continued)

Page 2/Doug Miller at the 2008 Sawdust Art Festival

It is the Sawdust Art Festival that has enabled Miller a plethora of passion and creativity. “The Sawdust Art Festival is what makes it all matter. It has been a big part of my life and has helped me through some very lean times.” After serving in the Navy during the Vietnam War from 1967 to 1971, Miller, at age 25, purchased a booth space at the Sawdust Art Festival for \$70 from an artist who was moving to San Francisco, where he has sold 8,000 of the 10,000 paintings at the annual summer show and Winter Fantasy show. Miller describes the moving of inventory as motivational, “they sell like hot cakes, but it allows me to create more paintings and improve my work at the same time.” The 10,000-plus original acrylic paintings have all been logged into a journal where Miller records the start date of the work, title, and name and address of the buyer.

Another creative outlet of Miller’s is playing the violin, something he has done since age nine. Miller performs with several bands at the Sawdust Art Festival as well as every other Sunday at the local Presbyterian Church. He met his wife Becky while playing in surfer Corky Carroll’s band in 1978 and married her the next year on the Sawdust grounds under the waterfall, where he combined his two favorite loves – Becky and the Sawdust Art Festival.

To catch Miller in action, whether committing to his daily painting regimen, snapping shots with his camera, or fiddling on the Main Entertainment Deck, visit him at the Sawdust Art Festival – Booth 310. The festival is open daily through August 31, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Parking and free trolley service to and from the Act V lot is available for \$7 per day. Act V is located on Laguna Canyon Road one-half mile north of the Festival. There is also metered parking along on Laguna Canyon Road for \$1 per hour.

(Continued)

Page 3/Doug Miller at the 2008 Sawdust Art Festival

Admission prices are: Adult \$7; Seniors \$6 age 65 and up; Children \$3 age 6-12 years and Free for children under 5 years of age. Summer Season Pass is \$20 and the Annual Pass is just \$25 (unlimited admission to both the Summer and Winter shows). For more information call 949-494-3030 or navigate to www.SawdustArtFestival.org.

The Sawdust Art Festival is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public and promoting the art created in Laguna Beach.

The Sawdust Art Festival thanks our 2008 sponsors *Czechvar, Kendall-Jackson* and our Official 2008 Media Sponsor, *The Los Angeles Times*.

###