

MOCA Mobilization
www.mocamobilization.org

Press Release
Los Angeles
December 17, 2008

MOCA Mobilization, a group of 3,300 members, delivered a petition to MOCA's Board of Trustees yesterday. The petition, signed by 3,200 people, advocates a simple position: "We call upon the Trustees to maintain MOCA's independence and to keep its collection intact and accessible to a wide and appreciative public". The petition supplements the signatures of over 400 people who attended MOCA Mobilization's rally in support of the museum held at the Geffen Contemporary on November 23rd 2008.

In light of yesterday's announcement by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art "outlining the terms of a proposed merger", MOCA Mobilization makes the following statement:

We support an independent and autonomous MOCA. We condemn any plan now or in the future to merge MOCA with any other institution. MOCA's artistic integrity and vitality, acknowledged locally and globally, can only be served by its existence as an independent museum, and not as a department or program at LACMA, whose mission as an encyclopedic museum must appropriately frame its numerous programs.

LACMA's press release of December 16th states: "The goal of this plan would be to preserve the independence and integrity of both institutions while combining their operations and infrastructure." This is not a definition of "independence" that we accept.

We at MOCA Mobilization want the *reality* of independence - not the *appearance* of it. We demand that the MOCA Board of Trustees honor MOCA's local and international leadership in contemporary art by maintaining the museum's autonomy.