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***** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE *****

MPMA DIRECTOR TO LEAVE MUSEUM

Jo Farb Hernandez, Director of the Monterey Peninsula Museum of Art, has announced that she will not renew her contract with the Museum, which expires on November 30, 1993. However, in order to ease the transition to the succeeding administration, Ms. Hernandez will continue to serve the Museum as a consultant for a two-year period beginning January 1, 1994.

Ms. Hernandez has served as Director of the Monterey Peninsula Museum of Art since 1985. For eight years prior, she was the Director of the Triton Museum of Art in Santa Clara, California. While at MPMA, she served as President of the California Association of Museums and on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Western Museums Conference, as well as actively participating in other state, regional and national museum-related activities.

During her tenure in Monterey, Ms. Hernandez spearheaded significant program, management and physical changes at MPMA. William Hyland, a member and immediate past president of the Board of Trustees, indicated that: "During Jo's term as Director, the Monterey Peninsula Museum of Art reached a high standard of professionalism, substantially increased the size and quality of the Museum facilities on Pacific Street, added numerous and significant works of art to its collections, and developed and successfully opened the exceptional Jane and Justin Dart Wing of the Museum at La Mirada. Jo was a vital part of these accomplishments."

Ms. Hernandez was instrumental in securing numerous grants for the Museum, including major grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Institute of Museum Services, and from private foundations and individuals. She also curated over 100 exhibitions for the Museum, oversaw the production of Museum catalogues, brochures and videos, initiated a program which toured MPMA-originated exhibitions within the United States and abroad, and oversaw both the 10,000 square foot Dart Wing addition and the renovation of the storage facilities and second floor galleries of the main Museum building.

Ms. Hernandez said, "I have very much enjoyed the time I have served as Director of the Monterey Peninsula Museum of Art, and I feel that I have accomplished many of the objectives I set out to achieve. My new role as consultant for the Museum will give me increased time and flexibility to pursue other professional projects in addition to those which I will undertake for MPMA."

Mr. Hyland added, "Jo's many contributions to the Museum and its significant growth are recognized, acknowledged and greatly appreciated. Her desire to consider other career opportunities, especially after so many years of service to the Museum, is more than understandable. The Monterey Peninsula Museum of Art wishes Jo great success in achieving her personal and professional goals in the years to come."

The MPMA Board of Trustees will begin an executive search shortly for a Director of the Museum, to take office after November 30 of this year.

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