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### **Former Montalvo Artist-in-Residence Walter Kitundu Named 2008 MacArthur Fellow**

SARATOGA, Calif. – Montalvo Arts Center is pleased to announce one of its artists-in-residence was named a recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship in late 2008. Walter Kitundu, a young sound artist, instrument builder and composer, was awarded a \$500,000 grant to span five years, funded by John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Kitundu spent two months at Montalvo's [Lucas Artist Programs](#) in the fall of 2006, having been selected as part of the [Hewlett Foundation's](#) grant for Bay Area artists.

Kitundu uses an interdisciplinary approach to develop compositions, installations and instruments that blur the boundaries between media. He has constructed elemental turntables that rely on wood, water, fire and earthquakes for their power and pitch. Kitundu is the creator of a family of *Phonoharps*, beautifully crafted multi-stringed instruments made from record players. He strives to reconnect the technology of new music to fundamental principles drawn from the natural world.

The MacArthur Fellowship is a five-year grant for individuals who show exceptional creativity in their work and the prospect for still more in the future. The fellowship is designed to provide recipients with the flexibility to pursue their creative activities in the absence of specific obligations or reporting requirements.

"This award is a testimony to the success of the Lucas Artists Programs and the practice of identifying emerging mid-career artists who show the potential for producing stellar work," said Charmaine Warmenhoven, Montalvo's board president. "It is an honor for Montalvo to have had Walter in residence."

Kitundu has an ongoing residency at the Exploratorium Museum of science, art and perception in San Francisco. He has recently been in residence at Eagle Rock School in Colorado, the Science Museum of Minnesota, and the Singapore Science Centre. Kitundu is also developing a Geologic Sound Casting project for volcanically active regions and was granted a five-week artist residency at Skriduklaustur in Eastern Iceland in September 2004. He was raised in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

The MacArthur Fellows Program awards unrestricted fellowships to talented individuals who have shown extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits and a marked capacity for self-direction. There are three criteria for selection of Fellows: exceptional creativity, promise for important future advances based on a track record of significant accomplishment, and potential for the fellowship to facilitate subsequent creative work.

The MacArthur Foundation supports creative people and effective institutions committed to building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. In addition to selecting the MacArthur Fellows, the foundation works to defend human rights, advance global conservation and security, make cities better places, and understand how technology is affecting children and society.

### **About Montalvo Arts Center**

Montalvo Arts Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to forging meaningful connections between art, artists and the communities it serves through creation, presentation and education in extraordinary ways and settings. Located in the Saratoga hills, Montalvo Arts Center occupies a Mediterranean-style villa on 175 stunning acres, which Senator James Phelan left to the people of California for the encouragement of promising students in the areas of art, music, literature and architecture. In January 2005, the organization expanded its name from "Montalvo" to "Montalvo Arts Center" to commemorate its 75th year as an arts center and to better communicate its mission to increasing local, national and international audiences. For more information about Montalvo Arts Center, call (408) 961-5800 or visit [www.montalvoarts.org](http://www.montalvoarts.org).

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