

NEWS RELEASE For Immediate Release

Lampé Mystique
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Everyday Trash. Electrified.

Artist MBasil creates exquisite, one-of-a-kind lamps from unlikely found and recycled objects.

Venice, CA, 11/28/2006 —They may remind you of time machines, roller coasters, or Vegas at night. All flashes of light, curves and dips. What MBasil's lamps won't bring to mind is what they actually are: Broken faucets and discarded earrings, rusted bird cages and radio wires.

The one-of-a-kind, recycled art lamps, now available at his shop in Venice CA, are highly conceptual, bringing to mind the whimsy, beauty and introspection of pop culture America. One piece resembles a leafy marsh plant; another suggests the grit and hope of the Industrial Revolution. Another (somehow) looks the way classical music feels.

"With *Coney Island*, the thing I was thinking of the whole time was the parachute ride," says MBasil Tantaros. "And with *Red Zone*, it's a machine I imagined out of a Jules Vern Novel".

Scraps of metal, antiqued kitchenware, insides of motors, oddly shaped plastic — mere junk in the eyes of most, are melded with lamp parts to create assemblages that ignite and inspire thought. The point is not so much to imagine what the parts in the lamp once were, but to appreciate what they have become.

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"In my lamps you cannot identify the things that I use," says Tantaros. "They no longer have their identity except to be part of a new whole."

These captivating objects of beauty and light are the result of years spent scavenging flea markets, garage sales and dumpsters...and simply paying attention.

"Anytime I walk out the door I'm on the alert." Tantaros says. "It could be a piece of metal that's been run over by cars for six months that has a beautiful patina and a nice shape. I'm out there looking for beauty."

MBasil Tantaros' sculpture has been sold by Anthropologie in New York and shown in galleries throughout the East Coast. He's been written about in the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Allentown Morning Call and the Oxford Press of Kennett PA, among others.

Lampe Mystique is located at 1644 Abbot Kinney Blvd. in Venice, CA. An opening party will be held on December 2, 2006. All are invited to attend. You may also contact the artist at 310.403.9158 or mbasil@lampartist.com.

