

HESS ART COLLECTION

August 28, 2009 – Napa, Calif. - A rare work by famed British artist Andy Goldsworthy is on permanent display at the Hess Art Museum at The Hess Collection Winery. The piece, entitled *Surface Tension*, is a network of chestnut leaf stalks held together with hawthorn thorns that also attach the work to the walls, ceiling and floor. No hardware or adhesives were used to complete the 10 x 16 ft screen that took Goldsworthy 14 hours to assemble. “More often than not, Goldsworthy works alone, privately; witnessing him make the piece was a rare gift,” says Robert Ceballos, Hess’ Museum Director. “He worked quickly, intuitively, and kept a tight schedule, all while maintaining a great sense of humor.”

In addition to this work, the Hess Art Museum also displays *Rock Pools*, a unique assembly of stones melted in a kiln; *Torn Stones*, an exceptionally rare example of a Goldsworthy video work; and nine *Snowball Drawings* in which the artist colored snowballs with pigments from seeds or earth, and melted them on large sheets of paper. The Hess Art Museum is unique in that Donald Hess has acquired works that are fairly permanent and singular; there are works in the Hess Art Museum at The Hess Collection Winery that are not duplicated in other collections. The exhibit represents one of the broadest public displays of Goldsworthy’s works on the west coast, and the Hess Art Museum is also one of only four places in the San Francisco Bay Area where Goldsworthy’s work is open to general view. Moreover, admission is complimentary.

About Andy Goldsworthy Andy Goldsworthy is a highly regarded environmental ‘sculptor’ who documents his often impermanent works photographically. He generally works alone and uses materials present in his immediate natural environment such as leaves, wood, thorns, sand, mud, stones, snow, water, ice and even sunlight. In describing his practice he says, “Ephemeral work made outside, for and about a day, lies at the core of my art and its making must be kept private.” He is the subject of the acclaimed 2001 documentary film *Rivers and Tides*, directed by Thomas Riedelsheimer and the 2008 recipient of Britain’s *South Bank Show Award*. Donald Hess began collecting Goldsworthy’s works in the early 1990’s. Besides being drawn to the extraordinary and sublime beauty of the artist’s works, he was captured by a deep commonality in environmentalism. Since 1966, Donald Hess’ business models are entirely based on natural products and shape their commercial practices around environmental sustainability. “We were *green* long before there was such a term,” says Hess. “In fact, it was another artist back in the 60’s who helped me realize the need for industry to make choices to protect our Earth. Besides being beautiful, having Andy Goldsworthy’s work in the collection is a great reminder to us of the importance of safeguarding and working with nature.”

About the Hess Art Museum at The Hess Collection Winery For more than forty years, Donald M. Hess has continued as a dedicated and passionate art collector, building an international, diverse and highly respected contemporary art collection. Works from the Hess Art Collection are often requested for loan to prestigious museums including the *Guggenheim* in New York and Bilbao, *El Prado*, *The Metropolitan Museum of Art*, the *Albertina Museum*, *Vienna* and *The Tate Britain*. Hess’ collecting style is a personal endeavour driven by passion rather than monetary investment or current trends. He develops a close dialogue with an artist to

better understand what drives him or her to create, and he carefully limits his focus as a collector to twenty living artists whose work he wholeheartedly supports long term. The works in the collection are ones that resonate with him in a profound way, and he often speaks of awaking in the night obsessed with a particular work he encountered. As is evident by the caliber of the collection, he collects with the uncanny ability to acquire works by lesser known artists whose recognition often grows with their career. His typical commitment to an artist spans decades and various stylistic developments. Hess firmly holds the axiom that the art collection should be made accessible to as large a public as possible. With that in mind, the 'world-class' museum has remained open for public view, free of charge for twenty years.

About The Hess Collection Winery The Hess Collection on Mount Veeder produces distinctive estate-grown Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon wines acclaimed for their complexity, structure and elegance. The mountain winery is a leader in sustainable and organic practices across its 310 vineyard acres on Mount Veeder and single vineyard designates in the Napa Valley. The historic winery has earned international recognition for its wine, culinary and visitor programs and provides free public access to Donald Hess' extensive private contemporary art museum. Hess Family includes The Hess Collection (California), Artezin Wines (California), Sequana Vineyards (California), Peter Lehmann Wines (Australia), Glen Carlou Vineyards (South Africa) and Bodega Colomé (Argentina).