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**Angel City Gallery Presents “Sunrise/Sunset” Photography Exhibit
Featuring Arts District’s ‘Downtown Muse’ Melissa Richardson Banks**

April 3, 2014--Downtown Los Angeles: A new exhibit featuring large-scale prints of images captured by Melissa Richardson Banks, aka Downtown Muse, debuts Thursday, April 10 at Angel City Gallery at Angel City Brewery & Public House.

Sunrise/Sunset: Photographs by Downtown Muse will showcase twenty 20" x 20" prints from the self-described ‘snap-shooter’ selected with the support of cinematographer Jason Wawro. The exhibit will also feature 24 photographs from Richardson Banks’ recently published work, *MUSE-ings: Snapshots of the Arts District, Downtown Los Angeles*, a 96-page hardcover cache featuring 92 full-color images chronicling her view of the intricacies and surprises of the city’s rapidly evolving downtown community and its inhabitants.

Sunrise/Sunset will feature the first display of large-scale prints of Richardson Banks’ popular iPhone images, leaning on themes that pay a delicate homage to the celebrated immediacy of snap-and-post photography as they reflect both the celebration of the present moment and the promise of what is yet to come.

“I am so thrilled to have an opportunity to both see and share some of my images in big format, right here in the very community that my work specifically aims to represent,” said Richardson Banks, who posts her images of urban living daily, sometimes multiple times, on her site at downtownmuse.com.

As a long-time resident of downtown Los Angeles, Melissa’s photos depict the uniqueness of the Arts District through an eye that has witnessed first-hand the quirk and evolution of the community over the last several years. Many posted on her website as they are captured, Richardson Banks’ images take photography’s intrinsic immediacy a step further by inviting us to join with her in her discoveries as quickly as she stumbles upon them. These include clicking out the unexpected bursts of light, the fragile display of nature against urbanity, and the beat of urban discourse as they play against a backdrop of oozing creativity throughout what is arguably L.A.’s most interesting live-work-play communities.

The *Sunrise/Sunset* opening reception runs from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Thursday, April 10 at Angel City Brewery, with the closing reception set for Monday, May 5 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

In addition to *Sunrise/Sunset*, Richardson Banks’ also has curated another exhibit set to open Friday, April 3 and run through May 5 at Art Squared Gallery at Pershing Square, downtown. *aMUSED: Paintings of the Arts District Inspired by Downtown Muse* will feature several 8.5’ x 8.5’ digital images of paintings interpreted from Richardson Banks’ photographs by six local artists Kikki Eder, Christian Hernandez, Miriam Jackson, Bonnie Lambert, Sandy Rodriguez, and Roderick Smith.

Also, *Arts District in Bloom* will feature photographs by Downtown Muse during Artisanal LA 2014 Spring Show at the LA Mart downtown, running April 26-27 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

About Melissa Richardson Banks and Downtown Muse: www.downtownmuse.com is the online home of images, a daily blog, links and cultural discussions concerning life in Los Angeles’ downtown Arts District by Melissa Richardson Banks. Reviews of her work can also be found on the site.

About Angel City Brewery: www.angelcitybrewery.com, founded in 2012 as a brewery, eatery and event location, is located at 216 S. Alameda St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

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