

MEDIA ALERT

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Screeners available by request

**KQED'S SPARK PRESENTS A NEW EPISODE FEATURING MUSIC, MIXED MEDIA ART, AND AN INVESTIGATION ON ART AND THE ECONOMY**

Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 7:30pm

SAN FRANCISCO, May 4, 2009 -- *Spark* presents a brand new episode with more of the Bay Area's great local artists. A new episode airing Wednesday, May 13 at 7:30pm features a women's vocal ensemble, a mixed media artist, and a special report on how the economy is affecting local art. For thirty years, the all-female vocal group Kitka has performed music rooted in Eastern European musical traditions. *Spark* joins Kitka as they rehearse and perform a new performance based on the songs and stories that were passed down to them on a recent trip to rural Ukraine. Next, *Spark* travels with mixed media artist Victoria May as she forages for materials and starts the process of creating new work. May is currently experimenting with innovative treatments of fabric, using "rusted" and buried fabric to make sculptural pieces. Then, in a special collaboration with PBS's *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, *Spark* investigates how the current economy is affecting artists in the Bay Area. How are they coping with the economic downturn? Some scholars and activists think hope lies in government support, and that we can learn from the historic WPA programs that provided employment for 8.5 million Americans during the 1930's. *Spark* looks at the current situation and the possibilities for the future. Watch a preview online at <http://www.kqed.org/spark>.

WHAT: New episode of KQED's arts program *Spark*

WHEN: Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 7:30pm

WHERE: KQED 9HD

Segments: Kitka, vocal ensemble  
Victoria May, mixed media artist  
Arts and the economy

**About Spark**

*Spark*, a production of KQED Public Television, is a three-part initiative in the arts that combines a weekly television series airing Wednesdays at 7:30pm on KQED 9, an extensive website, and a multifaceted educational outreach component. *Spark* blazes a trail through the diverse and prolific Bay Area arts community, featuring in-depth profiles of hundreds of local artists and arts organizations. Find more art tips and resources online at [www.kqed.org/spark](http://www.kqed.org/spark).

**About KQED Public Television**

KQED Public Television 9 ([www.kqed.org](http://www.kqed.org)), a service of Northern California Public Broadcasting, Inc. (NCPB), is the nation's most-watched public television station. KQED produces local weekly series in high definition and available on Comcast On Demand including: *QUEST*; *Spark*; *Check, Please! Bay Area* and *This Week in Northern*

*California*; and national series: *Jacques Pepin: More Fast Food My Way* and *Jean-Michel Cousteau: Ocean Adventures*. KQED's digital television channels include KQED HD, KQED Life, KQED World, KQED Kids, and KQED V-me, and are available 24/7 on Comcast. Download programs for viewing and video podcasts at [www.kqed.org](http://www.kqed.org), featuring unique content on one of the most-visited station sites in public broadcasting.