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Solvang's "California Nature Art Museum" to Debut California's First Permanent THOMAS DAMBO TROLL, February 2, 2025

-- Solvang, California, Known as "The Danish Capital of America," Welcomes Danish Artist, Thomas Dambo, and Team, as they Build their First Indoor Troll --

January 7, 2025 – **Solvang, CA** – California Nature Art Museum (www.calnatureartmuseum.org; *formerly the Wildling Museum*), located in the Danish-settled village of Solvang, California (www.SolvangUSA.com), will be welcoming internationally renowned Danish artist and recycling activist, Thomas Dambo, and his crew of international and local volunteer builders, as the team constructs the 154th Thomas Dambo troll inside the Museum's front tower. The new Thomas Dambo troll will be the State of California's first permanent troll, and the first Thomas Dambo troll to reside indoors, anywhere around the globe. ***The Solvang troll will debut to the public on Sunday, February 2, 2025.*** Solvang is a California Central Coast travel destination frequently referred to as "The Danish Capital of America."

"I am excited to build my first troll living inside at the California Nature Art Museum. The troll will feel right at home in the charming little American Danish town of Solvang, and it will be my first permanent sculpture in California," said self-described recycling artist, Thomas Dambo, whose mission is to build one of his trolls in every U.S. State.

Copenhagen, Denmark-based, Thomas Dambo is celebrated for his imaginative and colossal sculptures made from recycled materials. Specializing in creating enchanting wooden trolls, he breathes new life into discarded resources, showcasing the boundless potential hidden within our world's trash cans.

Thomas Dambo's Solvang build team has, with the help of the Museum, secured donated materials which will be used to construct the new troll. More than 80 wooden pallets donated by local businesses and wineries, as well as approximately 30 wooden wine barrels of various sizes, will be upcycled to craft "her," the troll's gender being the only "detail" released prior to her reveal.

Each of Thomas Dambo's 150+ trolls, now in 17 countries, lives with its own unique story and name. The California Nature Art Museum troll will face a well-traveled entry point to the City of Solvang, known for its Danish heritage and cultural ties with Denmark, and will welcome and attract both tourists and locals to the Museum and to the Santa Ynez Valley, providing special opportunities to engage the community.

"The City of Solvang lauds Thomas Dambo's environmentally-minded efforts, and we hope that this troll will serve as yet another proverbial bridge between Solvang and Denmark," added Randy Murphy, Solvang City Manager. "We are so fortunate to have the California Nature Art Museum here in Solvang, considering the importance of its mission and its cultural impact."

Thomas Dambo's method of community involvement and his artistic ethics are aligned with the Museum's mission: to inspire a love of nature through art. His trolls reflect an ancient tradition in Scandinavian culture that continues to remain relevant.

"My mission is 'Waste No More.' Our world is drowning in trash while we are running out of natural resources," continued Thomas Dambo. "I spend my life showing the world that beautiful things can be made from trash, and I give new life to discarded materials by turning them into large-scale artworks. These projects come to life using hundreds of tons of recycled materials, working in and with local communities – who are the co-creators of the art that I make – because the mission I follow needs the involvement of everybody. My aim is to build 1,000 trolls using recycled materials all over the world."

Thomas Dambo trolls carry with them narratives about the importance of exploring and protecting nature. Thomas Dambo has an active social media presence and shares stories of his distinct trolls from all over the world. He has a large following who enjoy traveling to find his trolls, most of which live outdoors in nature, as an enticement to get people outside. Thomas Dambo's "troll map" assists searchers in locating his pieces.

The special California Nature Art Museum installation would not be possible without the generosity of the troll's sponsors, including Schiele Family Foundation, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, Visit the Santa Ynez Valley, Peter and Becky Adams, Allan Hancock College, CHOMP Burgers (Aaron Petersen), Margaret Weiss and Sterling Collett, Belinda and Robert Hart, Line Larsen, Marion Lennberg, Richard and Janice Nagler, Jane and George Roach, The Siemsen Family, and many more. Additional information about the Thomas Dambo troll project may be found at www.calnatureartmuseum.org/news/thomas-dambo-at-calnam, which also includes a link for online donations. Donations of $250.00 and above will be listed on a sponsor board in the Museum lobby, near the entrance to the Michele Kuelbs Tower where the troll will soon live.

To schedule interviews with Stacey Otte-Demangate, Executive Director of California Nature Art Museum, or recycling artist, Thomas Dambo, or to request broadcast-quality B-roll and high-res images, please contact the Museum at 805-688-1082 or email info@calnatureartmuseum.org. For additional information about Thomas Dambo's works and creative process, see his full press kit and artist video.

About the City of Solvang:
Referred to as "The Danish Capital of America," the City of Solvang is located in the Santa Ynez Valley in Santa Barbara County, California. Founded by a group of Danish-Americans in 1911 and incorporated in 1985, Solvang offers a taste of Denmark in

Southern California. Danish design and Old World charm fill Solvang's numerous interior courtyards, cozy communal spaces, and open-air venues, where vacation itineraries for all unfold. The walkable town features plentiful free parking options for locals and visitors, and more than 20 lodging options for staycation-ers, weekenders and midweek travelers, from classic comfort to luxury-level. The Solvang Visitor Center, located at 1639 Copenhagen Drive, is open daily, 9:30 AM-5:30 PM (*closed briefly for lunch*). For more information, including travel itinerary ideas and inspiration for things to do, where to eat and drink, and places to stay, follow our adventures on Instagram and Facebook: @SolvangUSA and facebook.com/VisitSolvangUSA.

About California Nature Art Museum:
California Nature Art Museum uses art to educate and inspire people to better understand and care for our dwindling natural and wilderness areas. California Nature Art Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a small staff of two full-time and four part-time employees, augmented by 35 dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers. The mission of California Nature Art Museum is to inspire our community and visitors to enjoy, value, and conserve wildlife and natural areas through art, and provide artistic, educational, and field experiences of nature for that purpose. Our vision is to be recognized as an exceptional and innovative leader in inspiring our communities and visitors to value wilderness and other natural areas through the lenses of a diversity of artists. The California Nature Art Museum strives to collaborate with others for the betterment of our communities. California Nature Art Museum is located at 1511-B Mission Drive in downtown Solvang, in the heart of Santa Ynez Valley wine country. The Museum is open weekdays 11:00 AM-4:00 PM (*except Tuesday and Wednesday*) and weekends 10:00 AM-5:00 PM, and is supported by the generosity of its sponsors and members. For more information, please visit www.calnatureartmuseum.org.

About the Artist, Thomas Dambo:
Thomas Dambo (*Odense, Denmark; 1979*) is the world's leading recycling artist. Since 2014, he has produced artwork with discarded materials in more than 20 countries on five continents, including the USA, China, Brazil, Australia, GB, Germany, France, South Korea, Chile, and Puerto Rico.

Among Thomas Dambo's most famous works are his giant Trolls, made of recycled materials. More than 150 of them have been built from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean, from forests to deserts. He has also built more than 7,000 birdhouses all over the world. Some of his most acclaimed works include the Happy Wall (Beijing, Las Vegas, Hollywood, Rio De Janeiro, Santiago de Chile, Edmonton, Copenhagen, Roskilde) and the Future Forest (Chapultepec Park, Mexico City). Click here for a complete list of his works.

His passion for recycling and upcycling started when Thomas Dambo's parents taught him and his brother the value of protecting nature and using recycled materials to make their own toys, costumes, tree houses, and items. In 2010, he graduated in Interactive Design from Kolding Design School. In his life, he has shown a multifaceted interest in art and the music world: he has performed as a rapper, human beatbox, graffiti and street artist. In 2011, he decided to quit his job in Danish television to fully embrace a full-time career in art. Today, Thomas Dambo lives on his farm in the Danish countryside, where he has his studio. He also offers talks about his activistic art practice and workshops to teach people how to reuse and recycle.

Thomas Dambo´s creative vision is to match together the beauty and the trash, together with the sense of adventure coming from the research needed to find his works on-site – most of which are hidden in natural settings. He works in and with local communities, who are involved in several stages of his projects, such as finding the discarded materials and maintaining the works.

Learn more about Thomas Dambo and his work by visiting his website and join his mission by following him on YouTube, Instagram, or Facebook.

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Please Note: *Always check status of events and all event updates prior to making travel plans. Hi-res Solvang images are available upon request from solvang@stilettomarketing.com*

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