



For Immediate Release Contact:

Michael Jensen or Erin Podbereski at 626-585-9575 or erin@jensencom.com
or Tamara Kenigsberg/Peter Max Studio at 212-874-6700 x. 2112 or tkenigsberg@petermax.com

GLOBAL ART ICON – AND SPACE ENTHUSIAST – PETER MAX PAINTS 12 PORTRAITS OF ANOUSHEH ANSARI, THE WORLD’S FIRST FEMALE PRIVATE SPACE EXPLORER

MAX WILL PRESENT ANSARI WITH THE PAINTINGS AT HIS NYC STUDIO ON NOV. 1

New York City, NY, October 26, 2006: Globally renowned NYC-based artist **Peter Max** will present space explorer, entrepreneur and philanthropist **Anousheh Ansari** with an installation of **twelve newly created portraits** of her on **November 1** at **11AM**. The presentation takes place at **Max’s** flagship **studio** (37 W. 65th St., 7th floor, NYC, NY, 10023), and will be followed by a dim sum reception at acclaimed Chinese restaurant **Shun Lee Cafe**, just downstairs from the studio.

Peter Max and **Anousheh Ansari** share a lifelong fascination with the cosmos – **Max** cites astronomy – which he’s studied, along with astrophysics – as his first love. Quite fittingly, when he first rose to fame four decades ago, his psychedelic style was dubbed **“Cosmic ‘60s.”** Throughout his extraordinary career, **Max** has created space-themed images, including portraits of astronauts **John Glenn** and **Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin**, a series honoring **Apollo 11** and the painting **“Air And Space,”** commissioned by the **Smithsonian** to commemorate the **25th Anniversary** of **Neil Armstrong’s** moon walk. He has also done several covers for the **National Space Society’s** award-winning magazine **Ad Astra**, including one for their upcoming **winter ‘06** issue.

Peter Max’s dozen portraits of **Ansari** honor her recent pioneering spaceflight and **International Space Station** mission, a journey that made her the world’s first private female space explorer. All twelve are vivid **oil on canvas** works done in the artist’s trademark pop expressionist style in a rainbow of hues – the effect will be similar to his famed 1989 series **“40 Gorbys,”** a many-colored homage to **Gorbachev**. Often called the **United States’ “Painter Laureate,”** **Peter Max** has created iconic images of notables and heads of state including **six U.S. Presidents** and the **Dalai Lama** as well as original works for peace, environmental and human rights-related causes and for many events including the World Cup, the World Series, the GRAMMYS and the Super Bowl. Other major works include posters benefiting the **September 11th Fund** and the **American Heroes** project, portraits of 356 firefighters lost on September 11 and its aftermath.

Texas-based, Iranian-born Anousheh Ansari has dreamed of space since childhood. Also Chairman/co-founder of digital home technologies firm **Prodea Systems**, she entered the arena of private space travel in 2004 when she and her family underwrote the inaugural **X PRIZE**, a competition designed to foster a radical breakthrough in human spaceflight. The **Ansari X PRIZE’s** \$10 million incentive went to **Mojave Aerospace Ventures’ SpaceShipOne**, the first reusable private spaceship. **Anousheh** remains involved with the **X PRIZE Foundation** as a member of its Board of Trustees and “Vision Circle.” She launched into space herself on **Sept. 18** aboard the **Soyuz TMA-9** with **NASA’s Michael Lopez-Alegria** and **Russian** cosmonaut **Mikhail Tyurin**. Of her first earthbound glance, **Anousheh** wrote, “The joy in my heart was indescribable...Earth is magnificent and peaceful from up here. If we could all see it this way I’m sure we would do everything in our power to preserve it.” **Peter Max** is proud to salute his fellow humanitarian and space enthusiast **Anousheh Ansari** with **12 remarkable new portraits**.

For more information: www.petermax.com and www.anoushehansari.com

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709 EAST COLORADO BOULEVARD • SUITE 220 • PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91101 • TEL 626.585.9575 • FAX 626.564.8920
www.jensencom.com