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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

**CHAIR OF INGMAR BERGMAN FOUNDATION
NAMED EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF
NEW OPEN ACCESS HUMANITIES JOURNAL**

3 November 2009, Stockholm: Co-Action Publishing is pleased to announce the launch of the publisher's first humanities title, *Journal of Aesthetics & Culture*, under the editorship of Professor Astrid Söderbergh Widding of Stockholm University, Sweden.

Editor-in-Chief Astrid Söderbergh Widding is Professor of Cinema Studies and Associate Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at Stockholm University, and Chair of the Ingmar Bergman Foundation. In addition to her numerous scholarly publications, Professor Söderbergh Widding is a regular contributor on film and television to numerous media sources.

Sharing her thoughts on the inspiration behind the new title, the Editor-in-Chief states: "As the competition over resources to support research intensifies the Humanities are often left holding the shortest stick. *Journal of Aesthetics & Culture* is a somewhat radical measure aimed at bringing greater attention to Humanities research through encouraging a shift in publication patterns to better address a global audience and ensure visibility and impact. The journal seeks to publish high quality Open Access peer reviewed articles of both an empirical and theoretical nature and from contemporary and historical perspectives that address issues of culture and aesthetics across a wide array of subject areas."

Söderbergh Widding is joined by Associate Professor Lars Gustaf Andersson, University of Lund, Sweden, and Associate Professor John Sundholm, Karlstad University, Sweden/Academy of Fine Arts, Helsinki, Finland. An international multi-disciplinary editorial board, including among others Professors Sara Danius, Stephen Donovan and Sven-Olov Wallenstein who were also behind the initiative to create the journal, will support the editors.

The launch of the journal comes at a time when the perceived disincentives of publishing humanities works in Open Access journals are being heavily debated. A report by Mary Waltham on behalf of the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers recently suggested that the costs of publishing humanities titles far surpass those associated with publications in Science, Technology and Medicine, mainly due to the high rejection rates in this

field and longer manuscripts. Co-Action Publishing's Senior Publisher Anne Bindslev is confident, however, that *Journal of Aesthetics & Culture* will achieve both high quality and impact. "This is a journal similar to any other scholarly journal, but it is also an exercise in demonstrating that humanities titles can be successfully published under an Open Access model. Our budgeted costs for the journal do not look to exceed those of our other titles. We are working with the editorial team and the Swedish Research Council, which has generously provided initial financial support for the journal, to document our progress so that this can be shared with others," says Anne Bindslev.

Co-Action Publishing is an international Open Access scholarly publisher and consultant based in Scandinavia. A publications list and more information are available at: www.co-action.net.

For further information, or to schedule an interview with Editor-in-Chief Professor Astrid Söderbergh Widding, please contact: Caroline Sutton at Caroline.Sutton@co-action.net or +46 (0)18 495 1126 (office/skype), +47 90 69 05 06 (cell).