

Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara in partnership
with the County Arts Commission presents

CONTINUING THE LATINO TRADITION Continuando La Tradición Latina

May 3 – July 20, 2007

Abel Alejandro

Armando Baeza

Joe Bravo

Rafael Perea de la Cabada

Susan Elizade-Holler

David Flury

Lalo Garcia

Ana Marini Genzon

CiCi Segura Gonzales

Wayne Healy

John de Heras

Sergio Hernandez

Pola Lopez

Vanesa Martinelli

Frank Martinez

Beatriz Mejia-Krumbein

Raoul de la Sota

Eloy Torrez

Linda Vallejo

George Yepes



CHANNING
Peafe
GALLERY

CONTINUING THE LATINO TRADITION

This exhibition, curated by Ditte Wolff, captures the vitality and energy of 20 Latino artists working and living in California today. The Latino community, like the Jewish people, has the shared experience of immigrating to the United States and having to build bridges across all of American society.

CONTINUING THE LATINO TRADITION is an exhibition of 20 Latino artists living and working in California that represent the creative and vibrant energy that has characterized Latino art for centuries. This tradition dates long before the Spanish Conquest and the colonization of the Americas. It has changed through time and reflects much of the history of the countries in which it was created. As migrations of people moved north, the art continued to reflect the Latino heritage; but began to engage the 'Norte Americano' experience and reflect new subjects. Iconography still may refer to Aztec, Mayan or Incan symbolism, as well as Catholicism, Indigenous peoples, and historical events. As times and situations changed, civil rights, feminism, labor and immigration became new concerns.

Our country has become home to people from all over the world. Each culture has contributed to the rich diversity that makes our country, our states and our communities, vibrant and interesting places to live. The rich Latino culture has become an integral part of all our lives in California. The music, food, language, art and many of its traditions have become integrated into mainstream America.

In partnership with our Latino neighbors, the Santa Barbara community wishes to honor these artists and the contributions they make. May this exhibition recognize that we all have heritages to celebrate, to share and to respect, regardless of where we may have originated.

Opening Reception: Thursday, May 3, 5 - 8pm
Leguna Blanca Stage Band will play on the terrace from 5:30 - 8pm.

Free gallery talks at Channing Peaks Gallery:

Wednesday, May 16, 12:15pm, Curator Ditte Wolff

Tuesday, May 22, 12:15pm, Curator Ditte Wolff, with artist Rafael Perea de la Cabada

DITTE WOLFF - Curator of the exhibition, Ditte Wolff, taught in the SB City Schools for thirty-five years. She has organized exhibits for the schools at SBMA's Ridley-Tree Center and Contemporary Arts Forum, and most recently independently curated exhibits at the SB Jewish Federation: *Portraying Women by Women*, *Contemporary Native American Art*, and *Married 2 Art*.

CONTINUANDO LA TRADICIÓN LATINA es una exposición de 20 artistas latinos que viven y trabajan en California representando la energía vibrante y creativa que ha caracterizado al arte latino por siglos. Esta tradición data de mucho antes de la conquista española y de la colonización de América. Ha cambiado con el paso del tiempo y refleja mucho de la historia de los países donde se originó. En la medida en que grupos de gente emigraron hacia el norte, su arte continuó reflejando su herencia latina pero comenzó a tener influencias de la experiencia "norteamericana" y a reflejar nuevos temas. Aunque la iconografía aún se refiere a simbolismos aztecas, mayas e incas, al igual que católicos, a orígenes indígenas y a eventos históricos. Como fueron cambiando los tiempos, los movimientos de derechos civiles, el feminismo, los derechos del trabajador y la inmigración tomaron importancia.

Nuestro país se convirtió en el hogar de gentes de todo el mundo. Cada cultura contribuyó a la rica diversidad que hacen tan interesante la vida en nuestra patria, en nuestros estados y en nuestras comunidades. La rica cultura latina se ha convertido en una parte integral de nuestras vidas en California. La música, la comida, el idioma, el arte y muchas otras tradiciones se han integrado a la vida cotidiana de Estados Unidos.

En conjunto con nuestros vecinos latinos, la comunidad de Santa Bárbara desea honrar las contribuciones hechas por estos artistas. Deseamos que esta exposición reconozca que todos tenemos una herencia que celebramos, que compartimos y que respetamos, sea donde sea que se haya originado.



The Escape/El Escape
Vanessa Martinielli



Seguero Woman
Armando Baeza

ARTIST STATEMENTS

ABEL ALEJANDRE

For twenty-three years, Abel Alejandro has been in the process of imagining the world through his own particular vision. Born in rural central Mexico in 1968, the artist emigrated with his family to California in 1975. Having earned a living from the land, Abel's father had different aspirations for his eldest son, urging him toward a trade and, in his estimation, a better life. Alejandro, however, chose to pursue the canvas. Alejandro says, "The measure of a visual work's effectiveness should be the depth of cognition and feeling aroused in the viewer."

ARMANDO BAEZA

"Attempts at objective realism in art are much like attempts to duplicate the unreachable essence. We end up settling for our individual subjective expressions of forms, colors, sounds, words, ideas, etc., which I believe is the only choice we want and are looking for." Armando Baeza was born in East Los Angeles and graduated from Otis Art Institute.

JOE BRAVO

Joe Bravo was born in San Jose, California and raised in Los Angeles. "My art is the sum of my life's experiences, creativity, and skills. Although I paint from the cultural perspective of a Chicano growing up in California, my work reflects universal themes of love, hope, and social concerns with which all people can relate to."

RAFAEL PEREA DE LA CABADA

An award-winning artist born in Mexico City, he has lived in Santa Barbara since 1987. He is a UCSB M.F.A. graduate, and his work has been shown nationally and internationally. "In my work as in life, I look not only at what is naturally perceived, but also for the hidden relationships within the cacophony of experience. Painting for me has a transformative power, a delicate volatility that triggers our craving for a deeper perceptual level. I find art making an endless mystery, a choice and a calling."

SUSAN ELIZALDE-HOLLER

"There is something of the human element that can be understood in these figures and at the same time they command a certain amount of attention or reverence. The intent of my work is to engage the viewer. Contemplation and interaction are what I would like to inspire. My hope is that the viewer will stop, reflect, and walk away feeling they have understood or connected somehow." Born and raised in Southern California, Elizalde-Holler received an M.F.A. from California State University, Fullerton with an emphasis in ceramics.



Untitled

DAVID FLURY

"My work is a flurry of controlled chaos that dances around me like I am fencing with myself. I also infuse a spontaneous energy and momentum in my paintings, which illuminate my Guatemalan and Mayan roots, and use colors and shapes that imitate Mayan hieroglyphs. My paintings speak a dialect all of their own, which although I will take a dirt nap, they will outlive me, and like a fingerprint leave behind a piece of my soul." David Flury, Southern California artist is based in Los Angeles is an active member of Los Four.

LALO GARCIA

Born in La Cieneguita, a small rancho in the state of Michoacan, Mexico, he has spent 25 years immersed in the world of art as design artist, production designer, stage director and choreographer. "The themes of my paintings depict sacred and



Little Girls/Guacacotas

Mexican images that have been very important in my life not only because they express my spirituality but also celebrate my heritage and culture. My new color palette of earth tones that I'm using brings me closer to nature. An extension of this natural simplicity expressed throughout my work is the use of the line, greatly influenced by

my mentor Frank Martinez and the beautiful architecture of the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in downtown Los Angeles."

ANA MARINI-GENZON

"My art is about people and the way they experience their lives. I try to suggest a story, not only of the moment but also of an entire life. Not only of what we can see, but what is invisible to the eyes. Art is always a mirror. That is why it is so powerful. In the process of expressing the mood of the subject's substance, I constantly go deep inside myself searching for answers about human relations in this fast and ever changing world." Born in Buenos Aires,

Marini-Genzon currently resides Pasadena, California and has an M.F.A. from P.Pueyrredon, School of Fine Arts in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

CICI SEGURA GONZALEZ

Born in San Gabriel, California, Segura Gonzalez has studied art at East Los Angeles College and also printed at Self-Help Graphics Studio in Los Angeles, and has worked for Walt Disney Company, as an artist and designer. "I have always been fascinated by uncharted territory and infinite space...the ocean with its hidden treasures, the universe with its endless sky and the human mind with its labyrinth of secrets. When I paint, these are the worlds I enter and explore on canvas. They draw me into their energy force and I begin a journey with no direction but with a definite purpose...expression and sensation without words."

WAYNE HEALY

Born in Santa Barbara, California, Wayne Alaniz Healy was raised in East Los Angeles. He had an Aerospace Engineering and Mathematics degree, a 23-year career in the aerospace industry, and in 1991 left to devote his full time to art. "I had the great fortune to grow up in an artistic family atmosphere where art was not a vocational goal, but a natural form of expression. The imagery that appears in my work is autobiographical and narrative of the East LA experience, from the 1940s to the present. I used to think my subject matter might be somewhat provincial until I traveled the world. I then realized that my themes are universally relevant with merely a veneer of cultural specificity."

JOHN DE HERAS



Chayote

John de Heras, Fulbright Scholarship winner, is a retired Cal State Long Beach professor. De Heras said, "Each piece is orchestrated to suggest the power and sophistication of the ceremonial, religious, and narrative art of the pre-Hispanic Mayan culture. His

paintings are the result of his ongoing investigation: a synthesis of his intellect and intuition, what he's learned and what he feels, his scholarly pursuits and his artistic creativity. Using his coded, kaleidoscopic paintings as our map we set off on a vicarious archeological expedition."

SERGIO HERNANDEZ

"My art reflects my eclectic interest in many fields. I go between my political cartoons lampooning the topics of the day and painting subjects that interest me. I explore music, culture, cars, history, social and political themes and any other subjects that interest me. I love experimenting with color and light and how they can be used to attain dramatic effects." Raised in the ethnically diverse area of Los Angeles called the Florence/Firestone District, Hernandez received a summer scholarship to Otis Art Institute that exposed him to serious painting and led him to think about art as a career.



Celia Cruz

POLA LOPEZ

Lopez, an award-winning artist is a self-taught painter, born in northern New Mexico, in the placita of Las Vegas. The two important concentrations that give meaning to Lopez' painting are her vibrant use of color which conveys a spiritual and energetic tone and her choice of subject which comes from an interpretation her "mestisaje"... her mixed cultural background. Her images are often drawn directly from the environment. Underlying it all is a definite indigenous and feminine sensibility. The desire to convey the beauty and spiritual core that resides in the most mundane of objects resonates throughout her painting.

VANESA MARTINELLI

Vanessa Martinelli was born in Argentina, and has studied in different studios since she was 4 years old, and received a fine art degree from the Cordoba Fine Art University. She teaches art at the Museum of Latin American in Long Beach, California. She works with oil, mixed media, drawing, silk and ceramics. "My art is born from silence. It is an intimate and timeless dialogue with myself, taking the observers through a journey of self-reflection, revealing the unknowns hiding inside every one of us."

FRANK MARTINEZ

"At this point in my life most of the themes that I'm painting come from the memories I have of the many places where I've been and the people that I've met in my lifetime, as well as going through the pages of my old sketch books. The painting "Los Viejos" (The Old Men) is of a group of musicians from Puerto Rico, and the youngest member was 60 years old." Attending Choinard Institute and Otis Art Institute, Martinez has shown his work in over eighty exhibitions.



The Old Men/Los Viejos

BEATRIZ MEJIA-KRUMBEIN

Beatriz Mejia-Krumbein uses figurative expressionism as a vehicle for personal and community reconciliation. Her work is charged with emotion and with an underlying hope for peace and addresses a range of social concerns, and using diverse media, speaks about multicultural and cross-cultural issues. These concerns include violence against women and children, and the cultural



In Laces/Solitude

displacement and fragmentation experienced by persons torn from their community or country. Mejia-Krumbein was born and raised in Columbia, South America, and immigrated to the United States in 1988. With an M.F.A. from James Madison University in Virginia, she has taught and exhibited extensively since the mid 1970s.

RAOUL DE LA SOTA

Raoul de la Sota was born and raised in Los Angeles by Mexican parents in a bilingual household. He obtained the first Fulbright Fellowship awarded to a Chicano artist to study in Peru. "I was sickly as a child and my mother would take me out to the dry desert and mountains to recuperate. When I began to seriously consider subject matter for my art, the world of the natural landscape seemed most familiar. Travels to the high Andes of South America, the jungles of Central America, the great expanses of the Southwestern US and particularly the country of my parents, Mexico, led me to explore the traditional beliefs of the contemporary peoples. I am fascinated with the oral tradition of those people that have transformed their ideas of the eagle, llama, the jaguar, the condor, and the snake into sky deities."



The Cyclor/El Cielo

ELOY TORREZ

Born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Torrez lives and works in Los Angeles. He has a Fine Arts degree from Otis College of Design. Torrez' work always involves the human figure and is influenced by realism, surrealism, symbolism, environments and dream states. His landscapes, seascapes, skies, and clouds symbolize and capture the atmosphere and light. Architecture indicates culture passage of time and the sense of history. He focuses on psychological circumstances, human quirks, foibles and ironic appreciation.

LINDA VALLEJO

Vallejo received a Master of Fine Arts from Cal State University, Long Beach. In the 1980s Vallejo studied Mayan dance, participated in presentations and teachings in Native American and Chicano ceremonies. "Over the past twenty-five years, I have investigated humanity's intrinsic relationship with nature, and conversely, the destruction of the natural world through modern pollution. This work has been deeply influenced by Ana Mendieta's use of nature and natural materials combined with photography, Lee Bontecou's nature-inspired, mixed media crystalline sculptural forms, the sensual power of Georgia O'Keefe's landscapes, and my personal study of contemporary indigenous philosophy and symbolism."



Sacred Lands/Tierra Sagradas

GEORGE YEPES

Born in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico, Yepes was raised in East L.A., formed by a hard street life, yet called on the classical master works from Velasquez to Titian for inspiration as a self-taught artist. "George Yepes dramatizes with iconoclastic vigor the nature of radical art: he sends you back to your roots. But more than a voyage back to the land of your ancestors and to the soil that (allegedly) nurtured the soul of your people, the roots that you back to through the medium of George Yepes' work are your own: the roots under the ground on which you stand, all that is buried under you and, for that same reason, you can't remember. This is George Yepes' insight, encoded in his artwork in the form of acrylic riddles," said Roberto Cantu, PhD.



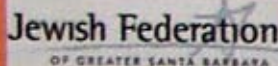
Cover Images, DETAILS:

Artist images left to right 1st row: *Puzzle of Mexico, Para Armar*, Rafael Perea de la Cabada; *Forbidden Meat/Carnes Prohibidas*, Wayne Healy; *Maya*, Joe Bravo; *City Corn/Maiz de la Ciudad*, Pola Lopez; *Terra Nostra: Lady of the Butterflies/Terra Nostra: Mujer de los Mariposas*, George Yepes; *Series II No. IV /Serie 2, No IV*, Abel Alejandro; *When All Three Freeways Meet, Cuando los Tres Autopistas se Cruzan*, David Flury; *Convergence/Pasaje*, Eloy Torrez; *Kisses from Brazil/Beijos du Brasil/Besos de Brasil*, Cici Segura Gonzalez.

Exhibition Credits



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Channing Peake Gallery

105 E. Anapamu Street, 1st floor, County Administration Building
Santa Barbara www.sbartscommission.org

Gallery Hours: Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm

Upcoming Events in the Historic Cultural Arts District

For more cultural event info go to www.santabarbaradowntown.com and click on "Calendar of Events."

MAY

- Thursday, May 3 **1st Thursday - An Evening of Visual and Performing Art**
Various Downtown Locations
Info: 805-962-2098 ext. 24
- Saturday, May 5 **Bright Eyes**
Arlington Theatre Info: 805-963-4408
- Saturday, May 5 **Tierney Sutton Band**
Lobero Theatre Info: 805-963-0761
- May 5 - May 6 **Fusion Dance Company Presents: Level of Heat II**
Center Stage Theater Info: 805-963-8198
- Sunday, May 6 **Santa Barbara Symphony: Island of the Blue Dolphins**
Lobero Theatre Info: 805-963-0761
- May 10 - June 10 **Take Five**
Artamo Gallery Info: 805-568-1400
- May 12 - May 13 **Santa Barbara Symphony: Martin Chalifour, Violin**
Arlington Theatre Info: 805-963-4408
- May 17 - May 26 **Miss Julie**
Center Stage Theater Info: 805-963-0408
- Saturday, May 19 **Sings Like Hell Presents: Jesse Winchester + Tom Rush**
Lobero Theatre: Info: 805-963-0761
- Thursday, May 24 **Downtown Art & Wine Tour**
Various Downtown Galleries Info (805) 962-2098 ext. 22
- May 30 - Nov. 11 **Forged in Iron: The Expressive Art of the Roof Cross in Chiapas, Mexico**
Casa de la Guerra Info: 805-965-0093



JUNE

- June 1 - June 24 **This Is How It Goes**
Ensemble Theatre Company Info: 805-962-8606
- June 2 - June 3 **Tina the Ballerina**
Lobero Theatre Info: 805-963-0761
- Thursday, June 7 **1st Thursday - An Evening of Visual and Performing Art**
Various Downtown Locations Info: 805-962-2098 ext. 24
- June 7 - July 22 **Bathers: Photographic Works by Thomas Zika**
Edward Cella: Art + Architecture Info: 805-962-5900
- June 8 - June 16 **Lit Moon World Theatre Festival**
Center Stage Theatre Info: 805-963-0408
- July 1 - October 7 **Made in Santa Barbara: Contemporary Photographs**
S.B. Museum of Art Info: 805-966-5373
- July 14 - August 26 **James Van Arsdale's -(Safe Within My) Green Zone**
Contemporary Arts Forum Info: 805-966-5373
- July 14 - August 26 **Sonotube**
Contemporary Arts Forum Info: 805-966-5373