



UNIVERSITY GALLERIES

PROJECT DESCRIPTION FOR "OTHER AMERICANS: EXPATRIATE ARTISTS FROM SOUTH AND LATIN AMERICA"

The University of Southern California Gallery, under the direction of Dr. Selma Holo proposes to hold a major exhibition of contemporary art by expatriate South and Latin American artists who have chosen to live and work in the United States. The exhibition will occupy the entire gallery area and sculpture court, and may make use of alternative forums such as the radio and the streets. The Gallery will also be the site of poetry readings and theatrical and musical performances created by expatriate Latin American writers and composers. This is an exciting and timely project for the art community and the general public for several reasons.

The United States has a rich history of cultural assimilation. To date, however, study has focused largely on the influence of European art. With the pre-eminence of American art and the ease of dissemination of ideas it is American art which has become the most influential in the world, and artists from around the world are drawn to study and gain recognition in this country. The cultural heritages of these artists continue to expand and influence the American mainstream. The artists this exhibition will present bring to their work a series of cultural and stylistic concerns which are peculiar to ~~each~~ individual Hispanic countries - a combination of native tradition, mythology and technique - together with methods at the forefront of contemporary art.

It seems that the average American has only slight knowledge of the vast sub-continent south of our border. To this end any serious forum for the presentation of the richness of cultural life in these countries is a valuable contribution to our understanding of our most under-valued neighbors.

Since the population of Latin and South American descent is rapidly becoming a significant part of the makeup of the United States, and since this population has had little encouragement to explore the fine arts we know that with a bi-lingual program and outreach in the Latin community our constituency will be expanded beyond the normal visual arts audience.

The artists in this exhibition have all achieved recognition in their respective countries and several have exhibited work in this country. The exhibition will feature artists from Chile, Argentina, Cuba, Honduras, Colombia, Brazil, Mexico and will consist of works in all media.

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We propose to accompany the exhibition with a catalogue outlining in more detail the topics listed above, including information on each artist, the influence of the culture and arts of their respective countries and their contribution to the arts of the United States. It will also address itself to the cultural issues presented by the literary, the theatrical and musical aspects of the exhibition.

The totality of this exhibition will be directed and supervised by Dr. Selma Holo, Ph.D. in Spanish and Art History, former curator of the Norton Simon Museum and presently Director of the University Art Galleries and Museum Studies Program, USC.

The visual arts exhibition will be curated by John Spray, a practising artist who has exhibited widely in this country. This year he showed work in the Sao Paulo Biennial. He was the Director of NAME gallery in Chicago and is currently working as a Curatorial Intern at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles on a Fellowship from USC. He is a Doctoral candidate in Contemporary Art History at USC. Gallery Curator, Marie deAlcuaz, M.A. Art History, will be working with him and supervising appropriate aspects of the exhibition.

The literary, theatrical and musical aspects of the show will be coordinated by the Institute of Hispanic Media and Culture, Ramon Araluce-Cuenca, Ph.D., Director, will work in conjunction with the Spanish and Portuguese Department at USC.