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## **El Camino College Art Professor Awarded Fellowship**

An El Camino College art professor recently was awarded a prestigious art grant from the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department.

Joyce Dallal was honored with a City of Los Angeles (C.O.L.A.) Fellowship. The \$10,000 grant will support new work that will be exhibited at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery from May 18 through July 13.

For this exhibition, Dallal is working on a large scale installation titled "Descent," which involves hundreds of paper airplanes made from Japanese paper and printed with the texts of the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions. Written in 1949, these texts address the treatment of victims, civilians, and prisoners of war. The airplanes will be suspended in formation on thin steel cables that are attached to the ceiling of the gallery and to chunks of concrete on the floor.

Referencing the Japanese tradition of folding 1,000 origami cranes for luck, long life, and peace, the airplanes simultaneously suggest oppositional interpretations of menacing military formations and playful doves of peace. The planes/cranes struggle to create a lift but are pinned in an irreconcilable suspension, capturing a moment of paralysis.

The piece and its title, "Descent," have a double meaning, and their references are visual puns at odds with their intrinsic purposes.

Several El Camino College students from the Art Club and art classes have helped with the project, and some teachers are using it as a teaching opportunity – showing an artist's work in process, the kinds of decisions that are made, and the logistics involved in creating a large installation piece.

The prestigious C.O.L.A. Fellowships honor a selection of the best of Los Angeles contemporary arts. These awards allow very accomplished artists to focus on creating new works. Meanwhile, the Cultural Affairs Department collaborates with community partners to organize a museum exhibition, a performing arts showcase, and publish an illustrated catalog that promote the new work by these artists and distinguish Los Angeles as a major creative center in the country.

Eligible artists must reside in Los Angeles County and demonstrate an active exhibition and/or production record of at least 15 years.

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