



NEWS

El Camino College | Public Relations & Marketing Department
16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506
Contact: Ann M. Garten, Director, Community Relations
Telephone: (310) 660-3406 | E-Mail: agarten@elcamino.edu

For Immediate Release

September 25, 2008

**El Camino College Art Gallery to Present
“Vivan las Mujeres! A Celebration in Paintings, Drawings, Prints, and More”**

The El Camino College Art Gallery will present “Vivan las Mujeres! A Celebration in Paintings, Drawings, Prints, and More” by J. Michael Walker. The show runs Oct. 6 through 31 in the El Camino College Art Gallery, 16007 Crenshaw Boulevard, near Torrance.

An opening reception is scheduled for 7 to 9 p.m. Oct. 7 with live music provided by The Barnettes. A gallery walk-through with J. Michael Walker is set for 1 p.m. Oct. 14.

Walker presents an exuberant collection of images dedicated to his admiration and love of women. The El Camino College Art Gallery is proud to present more than 30 works, including large-scale color pencil drawings, frescos, digital prints, sumi-ink drawings, lithographs, repousse, and documentation of Walker’s public art pieces.

Replete with historical reference to religious iconography of Latin America, Walker’s works draw us into a world of magic and reverence.

“Some 34 years ago, an unlikely convergence of good fortune and divine providence dropped me out of the Oklahoma skies and into a remote village in the Sierra Tarahumara of northern Mexico, where I was spiritually and culturally transformed by the light, and the life; the landscape and the languages; and by the lovely young woman who became my wife, Mimi,” Walker said.

“In a very real sense all the artwork I’ve created since then is a falling-short expression of gratitude for that blessed bump on the head, and an attempt to come to grips with the spiritual essence of our existence.”

Although he was born and raised in Little Rock, Arkansas, Walker feels “more Latino than not.” He studied art and philosophy in college, then left school in 1974 to do volunteer work in the Copper Canyon area of Mexico where he met his wife and discovered a deep affinity with Catholic spirituality and culture. His subsequent paintings, drawings and prints are imbued with a sense of mystery and exhilaration, a sort of vision in which individuals assume archetypal importance.

Walker and his wife live in Los Angeles where he has worked as a full-time artist for the last 20 years. Among his artistic accomplishments is a large body of work depicting the

history and visages of the saints who gave Los Angeles streets many of its most beloved names, including Santa Monica, San Pedro, and San Julian, to name a few. This work has been the subject of a wildly successful exhibition and book, titled "All the Saints of the City of the Angels," which has been on view at the Autry National Center in Los Angeles since February 2008, and will move to Our Lady of Angels Cathedral in November. Additionally, Walker has completed a series of bus shelter installations, initiated art programs for battered and homeless women, and participated in numerous solo exhibitions both nationally and internationally.

The El Camino College Art Gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Fridays. For more information, call Susanna Meiers at 310-660-3543 or 3010.

Admission to the El Camino College Art Gallery and gallery events is free. On-campus parking is \$2.

#