



NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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El Camino College to Present “Robin Valle: From Darkroom to Digital, Works from 1974-2009”

The El Camino College Art Gallery will present “Robin Valle: From Darkroom to Digital, Works from 1974-2009.”

The show runs Aug. 31 through Sept. 25 in the El Camino College Art Gallery, 16007 Crenshaw Boulevard, near Torrance. An opening reception is scheduled for 7 to 9 p.m. Sept. 8 with a gallery walk-through with ECC associate art professor Joyce Dallal at 1 p.m. Sept. 15.

Viewing 35 years of Robin Valle’s work is a romp through the history of late 20th century photographic processes evolving into seminal exploration of digital media. An associate art professor for the past 12 years at El Camino College, Valle passed away this past June.

As a student at Southern Methodist University in the early 1970s, she was already making hand-colored photographs with humorous collaged inserts.

From her earliest classical sepia toned images of architecture, Valle leaped rapidly to quirky Polaroids of parrots and fruit, immaculately matted, intentionally askew. From this springboard she dived into the world of Cibachrome, creating small-scale pieces with painterly surfaces, scratched and drawn upon, then sometimes perforated with heightened sense of the presence of the artist’s hand.

Simultaneously Valle produced a series of large-scale Cibachrome photograms, *Fairfax Ladies*, in which she placed diaphanous garments directly on photo-sensitive paper and embellished them with objects, paper bits and flowers. As time passed the photograms became progressively more layered as Valle began to paint and scratch the surfaces, eventually covering the photographic image completely.

In the 1990s Valle’s work took a strongly humanistic turn. Working with early generation grainy digital technology she produced a human biology series dealing with subjects such as body enhancement and reproductive rights. In 1992 she produced *Crime Stats/Hollywood* in which she chronicles and comments upon the world of crime and gang violence in her own neighborhood. In 1994 Valle created a black and white tile

series with images and stories of her students who had immigrated to the U.S. titled, *Why We Live Here*.

Pressing onward, Valle moved from this early digital media to her most mature work, delicate digital collage that often includes 3-D imaging combined with digital collage. This work often incorporated the cataloguing of birds or features an odd dinosaur or zebra wandering in a field of rich textile patterning. In 2008 Valle produced a lilting piece of kaleidoscopic animation, on view in this exhibition.

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 310-660-3593, Ext. 3543. Admission to the El Camino College Art Gallery and gallery events is free. On-campus parking is \$2.

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