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For Immediate Release

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El Camino College Art Gallery to Present “Cross-Pollination: The Art of Collaboration”

The El Camino College Art Gallery will present “Cross-Pollination: The Art of Collaboration” from Nov. 22-Dec. 17, (gallery closed for Thanksgiving, Nov. 25-26). An opening reception is scheduled for 7 to 9 p.m. Dec. 2, with a participatory performance, “Me, You, Us” by Edith Abeyta. In addition, a highly inventive puppet show incorporating hand puppets, shadow puppets, live actors, and music by Poli Marichal is set for 1 p.m. Dec. 7. The El Camino College Art Gallery is located at 16007 Crenshaw Boulevard, near Torrance.

Are two heads better than one? Is a group better still? “Cross-Pollination” is an exhibition of more than 30 artists who are collaborating in pairs, trios, groups of five, or whatever combination best serves the muse of the moment.

The means of collaboration varies from artist to artist, each pair or grouping expressing something of the pollinating effect of one to the other. The visual artist in his/her studio, a world that is most typically solitary, is opened to the exploration of what transpires when one creative mind meets another and a third, unknown and unexpected element emerges.

Artists include Edith Abeyta, Oksana Badrak, Paul Bailey, Kay Brown, Raoul De la Sota, Judith Duran, Antonio Escalante, Jocelyn Foye, George Geyer, Emelda Gutierrez, Cidne Hart, Joyce Kohl, Nancy Kyes, Peter Liashkov, Jose Lozano, Poli Marichal, Max Markowitz, Tom McMillin, Andres Montoya, Miguel Angel Murillo, Don Newton, Dick Pio, Lois Pio, Nancy Romero, Victor Rosas, Stuart Rapeport, Victor Raphael, Marianne Sadowski, Marc Salazar, Tim Sellars and “Artichoke,” Pen Tsou, and David Williams.

The El Camino College Art Gallery will present the works of this entire group assembled:

Edith Abeyta presents “Me, You, Us,” an installation dealing with the art of cooperation, in which backpacks made from clothes that have been given to her are placed on handmade shelves. Visitors are invited to collaborate by creating an object of nearly equal size to bring in and trade for a backpack. The new object will replace the backpack on its shelf, becoming an integral part of an ever-changing installation. Because the backpacks are made from donated clothing, Abeyta symbolically considers them as a community.

As a former athlete, **Jocelyn Foye** moves into the realm of the scientific with her investigation into the actions of sport and dance. Foye stages performances of such events as wrestling or roller-skating against a bed of clay. In this case, “Smash Down” is the result of a mini roller derby staged at the Laguna Art Museum. Once the action was made by the collaborating derby athletes against the clay, Foye produced a wall piece, which is the negative inverse mold of the

action. Additionally she exhibits more traditional digital works that serve as an index of the original performance.

George Geyer and **Tom McMillin** present “Double Reverse/Suspended Convex Gravity Bend,” in which two 13-foot pieces of tempered glass are suspended from ceiling and walls on steel rods. This suspension allows the force of gravity to act upon the glass panels, causing startling convex bends to occur. The elements of risk, balance, and tension, in a world governed by gravitational force, come dramatically into play.

Joyce Kohl and **Nancy Kyes**, both sculptors, work in opposing materials: Kohl makes massive and powerful, earthy abstractions out of adobe and found steel, while Kyes weaves everyday detritus into airy, often brightly colored confabulations that evoke the realm of spirit. Together, they produce a third fascinating element that is neither one nor the other but both.

Peter Liashkov has collaborated with many artists creating what he calls “Hybrids.” These hybrids begin with a life-sized cutout silhouettes made of synthetic vellum (called Synskin) based on Liashkov’s figurative drawings. He issues these forms to other artists who work on them in his/her own way, and then return to Liashkov who further embellishes or reworks the imagery. Collaborations include: Liashkov and Oksana Badrak, Raoul De la Sota, Cidne Hart, Andres Montoya, Miguel Angel Murillo, Marianne Sadowski and Pen Tsou.

Los de Abajo: Kay Brown, Judith Duran, Antonio Escalante, Emelda Gutierrez, Jose Lozano, Poli Marichal, Don Newton, and Marianne Sadowski work collectively on both two and three dimensional forms. All of the artists are involved in printmaking, painting and drawing. Their monumental collage works are comprised primarily of prints done in a variety of techniques. They contain whimsical creatures and are imbued with mythic overtones.

Calligrapher and book maker, **Dick Pio** and his wife, quilter, and textile artist, **Lois Pio**, present an exquisite handmade guest book in a clam shell box in addition to an intricately quilted wall work made with hand-dyed fabrics. Dick Pio and 15 members of The Society of Calligraphy also present a selection of miniature books from a collaborative project, *A Book of Calligraphy*.

Nancy Romero and **Marc Salazar** exhibit a tour de force mechanized painting depicting Romero’s special and contemporary vision of Dante’s “Inferno.” In this work, Romero, painter, collaborated with Salazar, carpenter and inventor, to mechanize cutout figures who parade through the levels of hell as the visitor presses the on/off switch.

Stuart Rapeport collaborates with three musicians, **Timothy Sellers** and his band “Artichoke,” **Paul Bailey** and **Max Markowitz**, in creating short films on Rapeport’s neighborhood of Highland Park. These documentaries began as a still photo project with artist Helen Garber. Throughout the films, imagery remains constant but the affect varies with the attitude of accompanying composer.

Victor Raphael, multi-media artist and **David Jordan Williams**, photographer, present works from their “unexplained phenomena” project. The series, which includes images from around the world, explores mysterious encounters with the unknown. The artists hope to elicit from the viewer the idea to not rule out the unexplained when considering what is real and what is known. The project includes archival inkjet prints and a digital movie.

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.