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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

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El Camino College Art Gallery to Present “Life Force: Works by Rodman de la Cruz and Medora Wildenberg”

The El Camino College Art Gallery will present “Life Force: Works by Rodman de la Cruz and Medora Wildenberg.” The show runs Aug. 30 through Sept. 24 in the El Camino College Art Gallery, 16007 Crenshaw Boulevard, near Torrance. An opening reception is scheduled for 7 to 9 p.m. Sept. 7 with a gallery walk-through with the artists at 1 p.m. Sept. 14.

In “Life Force,” the two-dimensional works of Rodman de la Cruz and Medora Wildenberg are reflective quiet works and are simultaneously imbued with a sense of life that undulates beneath the surface. In this mutual retrospective exhibition, de la Cruz and Wildenberg, who have been married for more than 30 years, display works that travel from the realm of landscape to bio-scape to mandala, and from visceral to conceptual. Both de la Cruz and Wildenberg are former full-time instructors in the ECC Art Department.

Rodman de la Cruz exhibits airy watercolor landscapes as well as conceptual works that fuse poetry, calligraphy and abstraction. His works are driven in two primary directions. One is the direct processing of experience and encounter with the everyday into plein air drawings and painted landscapes. His other works are reflective. De la Cruz combines his skills as a master calligrapher, poet and painter in mixed media works that border the blank page or canvas. The blank areas of these works entice the viewer to complete the image or experience, by mentally filling in the blank.

Medora Wildenberg states that her series of intaglio prints, *The Dream*, explores the mystic, psychic and collective levels of the subconscious. The symbolic gestural qualities of the female figure express her attitude toward the mystifying life forces that surround us and unite us. Also present in this exhibition are intaglio works from Wildenberg’s *Earthscape* and *The Dark Earth* series. In these deeply personal works, the artist looks toward nature, both as a source of energy and tranquility, honing images to an essential mandala form. Additionally, she exhibits sensitive life studies of her daughters, drawn in charcoal and Conte.

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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