

An Honorable Sendoff to a Major Work of Art

Tucson, Ariz (November 30, 2010) - The public is invited to a farewell party for the mural *Nuestro futuro/Nuestras raices humanas* and honor the artist David Tineo on Sunday, December 19 from 3:00 – 5:00 pm at the Tucson Museum of Art. This “despedida” will be a free, family-friendly event with Mexican hot chocolate and pastries that will acknowledge the artist’s contribution to the history of the Museum and a work of art that has become an iconic part of its Plaza of the Pioneers. The mural is due to be de-installed in January due to its age, deteriorating condition, and structural instability.

Unveiled in 1992 as part of *CARA Chicano Art: Resistance and Affirmation*, a temporary exhibition celebrating the Chicano art movement that traveled nationally, the mural was created by applying paint directly to untreated plywood. Originally intended as a short term installation, the long term exposure to Tucson’s weather has made it unstable and a public safety risk. “The mural was commissioned by the Museum and made with the intention of having it on display for a few months,” says Ann Seirferle-Valencia, Curator of Latin American Art, “although we have tried to stabilize it over the years, the plywood has warped to the point that it is separating from the frame. It is with David Tineo’s blessing, and in the best interest of the art and safety of our visitors, that we have decided to take it down.”

“It has fulfilled its purpose more than I could have expected,” says David Tineo, “It’s a piece of history and has been embedded in many hearts. I see this as a transition from public display back into the community.” The mural will be cut into sections and framed by Galeria Mistica, Tineo’s gallery representative and the home of much of his work. Once framed, the sections will be offered for sale to benefit the students at the Museum School for the Visual Arts. “The most important thing to me is that it benefit the kids at the school,” states Tineo.

“I have no doubt that David’s legacy of community involvement and his generosity in supporting the Museum School will have a positive impact on many future generations of young artists,” says Seirferle-Valencia.

Drawings for the mural were part of the large retrospective of Tineo’s work that was at the Museum last spring and the accompanying catalog contains a short history of it.

The public is welcome to bring mementos and memories to the *despedida*, and share their stories about the mural with Mr. Tineo. Filmmaker Angela Soto will be documenting the event and de-installation.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM SCHOOL FOR THE VISUAL ARTS

The Museum School for the Visual Arts is a unique, alternative education high school that provides a challenging and nurturing environment focusing on individual growth, opportunity, and diversity. Originally founded in 1993 by the Tucson Pima Arts Council as an after-school visual art, service-learning program, the school is managed by the Tucson Unified School District in partnership with the Tucson Museum of Art, and is located within the Museum’s Education Center. Its goal is to transform the lives of youth by providing them with visual art based learning opportunities that promote empowerment.

ABOUT THE TUCSON MUSEUM OF ART

Embracing the traditional with the inventive, the Tucson Museum of Art presents exhibitions with a focus on Latin American art, Western art, Asian art, and Modern and Contemporary art, and boasts a permanent collection of more than 8,000 works. The Historic Block features five distinctive houses built between c.1850 and 1907 that provide a unique look into Tucson's past. The Museum is open Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm and Sunday 12:00 noon – 5:00 pm. The first Sunday of each month is free. It is located at 140 North Main Avenue in historic downtown Tucson and can be found on the web at www.TucsonMuseumofArt.org.

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