

Nicaraguan art bridges culture gap to America

By Ingrid Petersen
Emerald Reporter

For the next few weeks, the University community has the opportunity to experience an international art exhibit currently displayed in the EMU's art gallery.

"Art and Reality: Contemporary Art of Nicaragua" is the most comprehensive collection of art from Nicaragua to be seen in the United States since 1978, according to Robert Gitteau, a member of the Council for Human Rights in Latin America, one of nine groups presenting the exhibit.

Throughout Latin America, Nicaraguans are known for their artistic abilities, said Nelly Macon Link, former director for the council.

"The Nicaraguans are very idealistic and poetic, and there has always been a need for them

to express," said Link, a native Argentinian who has lived in Eugene for 15 years.

According to Link, Nicaraguans experienced an explosion in artistic expression after the 1979 revolution, which has resulted in some of the art now displayed in the EMU.

"The artists are trying to express what is happening in their country, what they see and what they feel," Link said.

'The Nicaraguans are very idealistic and poetic, and there has always been a need for them to express.'

— Nelly Macon Link

This is a mixed-media exhibit, which means the art medium used is not limited to only watercolor or acrylic paintings, according to Rukshana

Edwards, the EMU's visual arts coordinator.

The exhibit also features peasant paintings, relief carvings, sculptures and mixed-media paintings. The exhibit is a lot more contemporary than she expected and very up to date, Edwards said.

The exhibit, which will be on display until Dec. 4, contains 34 different pieces of work. However, only 16 currently are

displayed due to a lack of space.

The exhibit made its debut in the United States earlier this year at the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C., and was shown at the U.S. Bancorp Building in Portland last March.

Other groups presenting the exhibit include the Student Activities Resource Office, the Cultural Forum, the ASUO, the Foreign Students Organization, the Department of Romance Languages, the Department of Art Education, and the Latin American Studies Committee.

In conjunction with the exhibit, Rosa Carlota Tunnermann, the cultural attache of the Nicaraguan Embassy in Washington, D.C., will be speaking at the University on Monday, Nov. 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the EMU Ballroom.

Tunnermann's speech, entitled "Nicaragua: Art in Society," will discuss art and culture in the new Nicaragua, Gitteau said.

"She will be able to address the cultural developments but



Courtesy photo

Leoncio Saenz' Magic Mountain is an allegorical work depicting the artist's interpretation of the Nicaraguan struggle for sovereignty and independence. Magic Mountain is one of 16 Nicaraguan works of art currently on display in the EMU.

with a (Nicaraguan) perspective of current life, which brings in to account social and political reality," he said.

Before Tunnermann's speech, there will be a reception beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the EMU Art Gallery where all 34 pieces will be on display.

Tunnermann, who helped establish the art school at the National University of Nicaragua, has studied art at various universities throughout the world, including the University of Los Andes in Bogota, Columbia and the

Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Through the art and listening to Tunnermann people will get a better idea of what the Nicaraguans are like, Link said.

Tunnermann, who is married to the Nicaraguan Ambassador to the United States, also is the director of the Nicaraguan Cultural Alliance, which is a first-time effort to coordinate cultural exchanges of different art forms between the United States and Nicaragua, according to Gitteau.

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Activities Calendar

Friday, Nov. 20

"International Coffee Hour" sponsored by the Foreign Students Organization. Tenants rights and responsibilities will be discussed with representatives from Income Property Management. Discussion will be from 4:15-4:45 p.m. in the EMU's International Lounge, followed by coffee. No admission charged and all are welcome.

Clothes drive for the needy, sponsored by the Foreign Students Organization. Table at the EMU Lobby from 10:30 a.m.

to 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 21

A dance sponsored by GALA at Laurelwood Golf Course, 2700 Columbia Street. Admission is \$3 at the door, or \$2 with a gay- or lesbian-oriented book (no magazines please). These books will go toward enhancement of the GALA library. Event begins at 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 24

Brown bag lunch sponsored by Women in Transition, EMU Room 318. Lunch begins at 12 noon.

Thursday, Nov. 26

"Purple Thursday Brown Bag Lunch" at the GALA office, 319 EMU. A social gathering of gay and lesbian students during the lunch hour, bring your own lunch. Event begins at 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

A calendar of events will run every Friday. Deadline for submitting student activities information to the Emerald front desk, EMU Suite 300, is each Thursday at noon. Student activities only run once in the calendar.

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