

EL OBSERVADOR

Cuban Art gets noticed at Onda Arte Latina



Julian Espinosa's artwork will get attention when it is showcased Aug. 26 at the Onda Arte Latina Cross Currents Gallery on Northeast Alberta Street.

The Onda Arte Latina Cross Currents Gallery, 2215 N.E. Alberta St., will exhibit the work of 15 self-taught Cuban artists, most of them still living and working in Cuba. The oldest, Roberto Jay Matamoros, is considered Cuba's leading primitivist and, at 92, still puts in many hours each week painting in his Havana apartment. He is part of a distin-

guished but tiny group of primitivists born in Cuba before 1930, and the only one still alive.

Two of the best-known self-taught artists with a "naive" or "primitivist" or "outsider" style became known within the context of the Cuban Revolution in the 1980s. They are Abel Pérez-Maineira (born 1930) and Julián Espinosa, who signs his paint-



A piece by Ricar Bruff Bruff, a carpenter born in 1928, is part of an art exhibit featuring self-taught Cuban artists.

ings "Wayacón," born in 1931. Another group of self-taught artists can be found working in the Cienfuegos area where Wayacón, who lives in Remedios, holds court. In his circle in the Cienfuegos area is the beautifully

detailed artist who is inspired by Santeria symbols, José Montebravo (a geography teacher).

This art on exhibit from the Center for Cuban Studies offers an amazing amount of informa-

tion about Cuban culture, daily life in Cuba, spirituality on the island, and much more.

The show opens with an artist's reception from 6 to 9 p.m. on Aug. 26. The exhibit runs through Oct. 26.



Venezuela President Hugo Chavez

Chavez Claims Victory over Recall effort

(AP) — Venezuela President Hugo Chavez survived a referendum to oust him, according to results Monday, prompting his backers to set off fireworks and celebrate in the capital, while Venezuela's opposition swiftly claimed fraud.

The first-ever recall vote for a president in Venezuela's history was aimed at putting a lid on years of violent political unrest and a bloody coup, and it came after a lengthy and complicated petitioning process.

With 94 percent of the votes counted, Chavez had 58 percent of the vote and the opposition 42 percent, according to Francisco Carrasquero, president of the National Elections Council.

Chavez, the champion of Venezuela's majority poor and the nemesis of the wealthier classes, claimed victory and said he would continue to wage his "revolution for the poor."

He also claimed repeatedly that opposition leaders were pawns of President Bush.

Dominican Journey Ends in Tragedy



Two sisters cry after finding out from a survivor that their brother died at sea while trying to reach Puerto Rico from the Dominican Republic. (AP photo)

Survivors describe horrific scenes

(AP) — After a harrowing journey at sea that lasted nearly two weeks and killed at least 55 people, a group of Dominican migrants who were seeking a better life in Puerto Rico drifted back to almost the same spot where their voyage began.

Relatives began burying the withered corpses of loved ones last week after 39 survivors were found, less than 30 miles from the village of El Limon, where their boat left July 29. Eight of the survivors died after being rescued and hospitalized.

Survivors described horrific scenes.

One woman was thrown overboard by men after she refused to

give breast milk. Others jumped to their deaths after rations ran dry. Some considered turning to cannibalism.

"People just jumped off," said survivor Faustina Santana, 27. "They were going crazy."

The Dominican Republic, less than 100 miles from the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico, is going through its worst economic crisis in decades. More than 7,000 Dominicans have been caught trying to reach the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico since Oct. 1 - more than double the number detained last year. Despite the risks, record numbers keep coming.

"He's never coming back," sobbed Victor Burgos as he buried his eldest son, Jose Luis Burgos, 20, one of the migrants who died. "He wanted to find something better."

Energy 'En Espanol' Pacific Power launches website in Spanish

Pacific Power announced the launch of a new website specifically designed to meet the needs of the utility's Spanish language customers.

The "en Espanol" site is accessible through Pacific Power's main site at www.pacificpower.net. Customers simply click on *Informacion en Espanol* on the left navigation bar, and they are linked to a special site that provides safety education, energy efficiency, customer service, payment options and energy assistance information.

"We're committed to providing top-quality service to all our customers, and creating this special website for our Spanish language audience is just one more way we're able to meet that commitment," said Karen Gilmore, vice president of Customer Services for Pacific Power. "This new site will continue evolving as we talk with our Spanish language customers."

Voting is Your Right

Any citizen who is 18 years old on Election Day is eligible to vote. Even convicted felons can vote if not currently in custody of the Oregon Dept. of Corrections. If you are in any other part of the criminal justice system, such as a county jail, you have not lost your voting privilege.

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REVIEWS ON EXCITING NEW VEHICLES BY THE WORLD'S LEADING MANUFACTURERS

The Portland Observer

World of Autos



2004 Honda CR-V 5DR 4WD EX

Price: \$22,240

Engine: 160hp 2.4 liter DOHC 16-valve iVTEC 4-Cylinder

Transmission: 5-speed manual

The Honda CR-V is the answer to the consumer that wants a vehicle that not the minivan but more than a car. It is a sport utility vehicle that is easy to drive and maneuver. Built on a car platform, it is lower to the ground and rides more like a sedan.

The recent redesign of the CR-V is larger, roomier, and more powerful. The 2.4 liter 4 cylinder provides enough power and handling

for all weather climates. It has an optional V-6 engine if you feel you need more power. The exterior style has an even setup with smooth panels, and rugged off-road look. The rear door swings open which is a plus. You will not have to worry about it falling down on your head when the door hinges fail.

The dash console has a convenient layout with room in between the bucket seats. The interior of the

vehicle is more comfortable than past models but it still has the bargain basement look to the interior seating.

The Honda CR-V has had the best gas mileage of the comparable vehicles. It's a small all purpose vehicle with a reasonable price. If you're looking for a vehicle that offers quality and durability, Honda has remained one of the top choices.