Sept. 30, 2011

Death penalty is focus of Sac State art exhibit

An art exhibit by Malaquias Montoya that examines the death penalty will be on display in Sacramento State’s University Library Gallery Annex, and will include a reception featuring actor Mike Farrell.

Montoya’s “Pre-meditated: Meditations on Capital Punishment” runs Oct. 11-Nov. 18. Exhibit hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. A reception will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, featuring Montoya, who will give a talk and take part in a book-signing afterward. The exhibit and reception are free.

Farrell is the reception’s guest speaker. He is best known for his role as B.J. Hunnicutt in the M*A*S*H television series. Farrell is also president of the group Death Penalty Focus. The reception will be held in the gallery.

Montoya is a professor emeritus from the University of California, Davis. This exhibit features silkscreens and paintings dealing with the death penalty and penal institutions.

“We have perfected the art of institutional killing to the degree that it has deadened our national, quintessentially human, response to death,” says Montoya. “I wanted to produce a body of work depicting the horror of this act.”

Montoya is a leading figure in the West Coast political Chicano graphic arts movement and has lectured and taught at universities and colleges such as Stanford, UC Berkeley and the California College of Arts and Crafts.

The Sacramento State exhibit is sponsored by the Library, Department of Special Collections and University Archives; and co-sponsored by the Library Gallery, Serna Center, Ethnic Studies, La Raza Galleria Posada, Taller Arte del Nuevo Amanecer and UC Davis Chicana/o Studies.
A book on Montoya’s life will be the subject of a special presentation by the author, Terezita Romo, program officer of Arts and Culture at the San Francisco Foundation. Her talk will be held in the gallery at 3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 3, and is part of the Friends of the Library lecture series.

For more information: http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=553 or (916) 278-6144. For media assistance, call Sacramento State’s Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156.

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