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Center for Contemporary Art, Sacramento
1519 19th Street
Sacramento, CA 95811
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A Salute to José Montoya

December 11, 2013 –
January 12, 2014



José Montoya, 1998. Photo. Sam Parsons,
Sacramento State University

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – *A Salute to José Montoya* is a tribute exhibition to honor the legacy of José Montoya (1932-2013), Sacramento's pioneering Chicano artist, esteemed poet laureate, musician, Professor Emeritus, social activist, community organizer and co-founder of the Royal Chicano Air Force (RCAF). Artworks and poetry collections by Montoya are shown with artworks honoring his memory in order to recall the collaborative dialogue between José, his colleagues and students that was intrinsic to every aspect of his creative practice and at the core of his exemplary art and activism. The exhibition is curated by Elaine O'Brien and Andrea Porrás. Visual artists participating in *A Salute to José Montoya* at CCAS include Jesús Barela, Dabid Buenrostro-Corona, Alex Escalante, Frank LaPena, Brenda Louie, Felipe Magdaleno, Andrea Porrás, Manuel Rios, Stephanie Sauer, and Roger Vail.

In addition to the exhibition, Sacramento State will host a tribute reading on December 5. Danza Azteca Ofrenda: Adelita Serena, Maria Rico, TeresayJohnny Garcia and Marty Natividad; music and recognition of Maestro Rudy Carillo: Abraham Robles and Margarita Robles; music to accompany poets: Arturo Balderama and Dominick García; poets: Francisco X. Alarcón, JoAnn Anglin, Nancy Aidé González, Xico González, Traci Gourdine, Vincent Kobelt, Mary Mackey, Graciela B. Ramírez, Betty Sánchez, Dennis Schmitz, Mariana Sousa, and Ike Torres. Open mic limited to a short poem if time permits. Jennifer Andrea Porrás, event organizer.

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Many tributes to José Montoya have been published since his death on September 25. *Vida en el Valle* (October 3) notes that Montoya was “the author of three collections of poetry [and] gave poetry readings at some of the most prestigious universities across the nation and abroad.” Longtime colleague René Aguilera recalls that, “his influence over several generations of Chicano poets cannot be overestimated. His use of Spanish, English and barrio slang poetry can be seen in the styles of countless Chicano writers who followed him.”

As a visual artist and founding member of the RCAF, José was dedicated to the Chicano Movement. A powerful eulogy published in the *Sacramento Bee* (October 13) by his son, Richard Montoya, describes José as “a cultural front liner and first responder. A doer. A creator who brought levity, defiance and satirical wit to the bloody fields of the San Joaquin as well as to the frigid halls of academe, all the way to the state Capitol and beyond.” Sac State Emeritus Professor, Duane Campbell, writes in the *Daily Kos* (September 29) that, “Montoya influenced thousands of students and teachers during his 27 years as a professor of art at California State University Sacramento, as well his earlier years as a teacher in Wheatland. He was a sought after speaker on issues related to using art in teaching. “José taught us how to be bold, how to be courageous, how to be clear, how to be strong and that example empowered many people, generations of farmworkers who were subjugated and oppressed,” said Juan Carrillo, former director of the California State Arts Council, who helped Montoya co-found the RCAF.”

Opening Reception:

December 14, 2013 / 6-9 pm
The event is free and open to the public
Center for Contemporary Art, Sacramento

Flor y Canto: Poets' Tribute to José Montoya:

December 5, 2013 / 7-10 pm
The event is free and open to the public
Sacramento State University
Sonoma Hall 2002

The Center for Contemporary Art, Sacramento, founded in 1989, is a nonprofit 501(c)3 museum dedicated to the advancement and appreciation of new and experimental art by international, national, and regional artists.

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