Sac State plans tribute to Jose Montoya

A poetry reading to honor professor emeritus and activist artist José Montoya will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5, in Solano Hall 2002 at Sacramento State.

The reading is being organized by Sacramento State Art Professor Elaine O’Brien and Andrea “YaYa” Porras in conjunction with a Dec. 11-Jan. 12 exhibit honoring Montoya at the Center for Contemporary Art, Sacramento (CCAS).

Participating poets at the Dec. 5 event will include Francisco Alarcón, JoAnn Anglin, Nancy Aidé Gonzalez, Xico Gonzalez, Traci Gourdine, Mary Mackey, Graciela Ramirez and Dennis Schmidt. An open mic will be available for poets who wish to read their pieces about Montoya.

José Montoya was a pioneering Chicano artist, musician and social activist, and a founding member of the Royal Chicano Air Force, a renowned artists’ collective. He also served as Sacramento’s poet laureate and taught art, photography and education at Sacramento State for 27 years. He died Sept. 26.

The poetry-reading event will include Aztec dancers performing prior to the readings and a reception with light refreshments afterward.

The CCAS exhibit, “A Salute to José Montoya,” runs Dec. 11-22 at CCAS on 19th Street. Hours are noon-5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday and 6-9 p.m. on Second Saturdays.

The exhibit is curated by O’Brien and Porras, and includes Montoya’s artworks and poetry, plus pieces from other artists honoring his memory.

For more information on the poetry reading, contact the Sacramento State Art Department at (916) 278-6166. For information on the exhibit, contact Michael Azevedo at (916) 498-9811 or casasacramento@gmail.com. Call the University’s Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156 for media assistance. – Craig Koscho