

9TH ANNUAL

# De Colores Art Show

APRIL 6 - MAY 18, 2003

Opening Reception

APRIL 6, 2003

CITY OF SANTA PAULA  
CALIFORNIA OIL MUSEUM



## Virginia Ashby Valdez

Virginia Ashby Valdez was born and raised in Ventura California. Virginia studied Art at Ventura College and at California State University, Humboldt. She has devoted the last five years to teaching art to at-risk and special needs students in programs and schools in Ventura County. Virginia currently teaches at the Carnegie Museum and the Inlakech Cultural Center, both in Oxnard and at Self Help Graphics in Los Angeles where she has taught paper maché workshops in preparation for *El Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead). Her larger than life figures and colorful, imaginative characters enliven the atmosphere and create a festive mood at each celebration. She also spends much of her time in her studio, where she finds a creative outlet for her own artistic talents. Although working in a variety of media, Virginia concentrates mostly on creating paper maché figures, masks and dolls in the tradition of Mexican Fold Art. She draws much of her inspiration from the Linares family, master paper maché artists of Mexico City. Virginia feels it is important to keep these traditions alive in the community. Virginia Ashby Valdez' work is currently displayed at various specialty shops and galleries through California.

## Linda Vallejo

Linda Vallejo, born in Los Angeles in 1951, is a practicing professional artist creating images, which describe the world from her indigenous training and understanding. She received a Master of Fine Arts Degree from Cal State University, Long Beach, in 1978. In the late 1970s and early 1980s she studied Maya and Azteca dance with the Flores de Aztlan Troupe. During these formative years, Las Flores de Aztlan presented teachings and workshops throughout the State of California at cultural centers, universities, and in traditional Native American and Chicano ceremonies that included Fiesta de Maiz and Dia de Los Muertos in Los Angeles, Fiesta de Colores in Sacramento, and Chicano Park Day in San Diego. Over the past twenty years, she has participated in and supported traditional ceremony in South Dakota, California and Arizona. She served as a community volunteer for the Native American Religious Society, California Rehabilitation Center, Norco for the past fifteen years. Linda is also a writer with numerous writing credits on the subject of Chicano Art. For more information on awards received, exhibits, published writings and teaching and lecturing positions, please visit her website: [www.lindavallejo.com](http://www.lindavallejo.com)

## Armando Vasquez

Armando Vasquez is a business-owner, teacher, community builder, group leader with a history of designing and implementing a variety of business, management, educational and vocational community support programs. Armando is the co-owner of a successful restaurant and cultural arts center in historic downtown Oxnard. As the Executive Director of the Café on A, a cultural center named for Rodolfo F. Acuña that endeavors to provide a fine arts, historical/political awareness forum. He has also self-published two books of short stories and poetry, *Flor y Canten*, *Mi Corazon*, and *In the Land of Giants*. Armando received a BA in Political Science/Chicano Studies and an MA in Education both from California State University, Northridge. . . . *and Armando is also an artist!*

## Artists Exhibiting Sculptures

### José de la Peña

José de la Peña resides in Ventura. José was born and raised in Texas and northern Mexico. He received an AA in Art from Larado Junior College; studied Artes Plásticas from the Universidad de Guadalajara, Jalisco Mexico; and a MS in Secondary Schools Administration from San Jose State University. His early academic work was in fine arts, "but timid and practical I did not wish to risk exposing my family to the precarious life of the would be artist. Anyone involved with the arts will agree that earning a living, as a beginning artist is a difficult life. Like many artists with a family to support, I have spent most of my adult life making a living doing other things." José spent thirty years in the field of education. He was an art teacher in secondary schools, a Community College counselor, later a dean, and then a vice president of a college. José feels that life's images make impressions on us in a variety of ways. "Those of us who are more visual respond accordingly. We imitate, even copy, those images in the art we produce. Beauty and the eye of the beholder are very different to someone born and raised in the harsh environment Texas compared to early Greek artists whose experience was the Mediterranean. As a student of art I have been influenced by the Impressionists in France, by Native American images and by contemporary Mexican artists. As an artist I am also influenced by the materials I use. I look for beauty in the materials and the forms and shapes they take. The surface of a stone or a piece of wood may be unsightly from their harsh exposure to the elements. Countless times I have carved inside ugly pieces of stone and/or wood and have found beauty within; a beauty in them only nature can provide. I find great pleasure uncovering nature's beauty. An ugly mesquite trunk from south Texas once finished and polished has a most beautiful heart. I enjoy setting these pieces on a pedestal so that others may see, experience and enjoy what I found."

# 9<sup>th</sup> Annual De Colores Art Show

## 2003 Artists, Dancers, Musicians

### *Artists Exhibiting Painting, in a variety of media*

#### **ARTINO Art Group:**

Agustin Bravo  
Joe Bravo  
Lalo Garcia  
Sergio Hernandez  
Frank Martinez  
Xavier Montes  
Ricardo Ortega  
Lix Mario Ramirez  
Mark Vallens

### *Other artists exhibiting paintings:*

Richie Arelanno  
Hope "Esperanza" Bartmess  
Doering  
Gail Childress  
Jaime Estrada  
Art Hernandez  
Judy Klement  
José Lopez "Verdin"  
Jesse Melgoza  
Omar Mora  
Louis Moreno  
Felix Pérez  
Elena Rios  
Bathseba Rabago-Vervoorn  
Eloy Torrez  
Virginia Ashby Valdéz  
Linda Vallejo  
Armando Vasquéz

### *Artists Exhibiting Sculptures*

José de la Peña  
Maggie Erickson Kildee  
Orlando Menchaca  
Lix Mario Ramirez  
Sylvia Raz

### *Artists Exhibiting Photographs*

Griselda Gonzalez  
Lynda Gruber  
Jess Gutierrez  
José Moreno  
Arturo Pérez  
Ron Regalado

### *Dancer*

Celeste Medrano  
Reyes de la Rumba

### *Musicians*

*Conjunto Hueyapan*

*Candi Sosa and Orchestra*