

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For additional images and information: Rita Ferri, County Arts Commission at 805-568-3994, or ferri@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Exhibition: *Continuing the Latino Tradition, Ditte Wolff, Curator*

Presenters: *The Jewish Federation, in partnership with the County Arts Commission*

Dates: Opens May 3 – July 20, 2007 **Hours:** Mon – Fri, 8am – 5pm, Free to the Public

Location: Channing Peake Gallery, 1st floor County Administration Building, 105 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA

Reception: *Thursday, May 3, from 5-8pm, presented as part of 1st Thursday, The Laguna Blanca Stage Band will play on the terrace from 5:30-8pm.*

Gallery talk: Wednesday, May 16, 12:15pm, Curator Ditte Wolff

Tuesday, May 22, 12:15pm, Curator Ditte Wolff, with guest artist Rafael Perea de

la

Cabada

The Jewish Federation, in collaboration with the County Arts Commission presents, ***Continuing the Latino Tradition*** with Ditte Wolff, Curator, from May 3 through July 20. The public reception will fall on the 1st Thursday event downtown, May 3, with a reception from 5-8pm. The exhibition honors the Latino artist, whose community, like the Jewish people, has the shared experience of immigrating to the United States and having to build bridges across all of American society.

The exhibition includes the work of 20 artists including: Abel Alejandro, Armando Baeza, Joe Bravo, Rafael Perea de la Cabada, Susan Elizade-Holler, David Flury, Lalo Garcia, Ana Marini Genzon, Ci Ci Segura Gonzalez, Wayne Healy, John de Heras, Sergio Hernandez, Pola Lopez, Vanessa Martinelli, Frank Martinez, Beatriz Mejia-Krumbein, Raoul de la Sota, Eloy Torrez, Linda Vallejo, George Yepes. The United States, Argentina, Mexico, Peru, Colombia, and Cuba are among the countries represented. The works will include painting, sculpture and works on paper.

Capturing the vitality and energy of the Latino artists working and living in California today has been the focus of this exhibition. ***Continuing the Latino Tradition*** presents emerging, as well as established artists, in a variety of materials and traditions; from using the landscape as a metaphor for a people - to a single image of a woman representing the struggle of womankind; as well as references to the Pre-Columbian cultures and the struggles of the Latino people. The colors, the symbol as metaphor, the stroke of the brush, and the intuitive love of the graphic image seems to resonate throughout the Latino art world. "The images are both emotional and intellectual. The rich fabric of the culture brings a sense of humanity, pathos, love and sensitivity to our visual world," said Ditte Wolff, curator.

Ditte Wolff, curator, taught in the SB City Schools for thirty-five years. She has organized exhibits for the schools at SBMA's Ridley-Tree Center and Contemporary Arts Forum; and most recently independent exhibits at the SB Jewish Federation: *Portraying Women by Women*, *Contemporary Native American Art*, and *Married 2 Art*.

Shelly Katz, Director of the Jewish Federation says, "The leadership of the Jewish Federation is delighted to take an active role in *Continuing the Latino Tradition*. The importance of respecting and recognizing our diverse cultures, their talents and traditions, is a gift to us. We welcome opportunities to partner with our community resources and are honored to be a part of this exciting exhibit".

This exhibition is funded in part by the Community Arts Grants Program using funds provided by the City of Santa Barbara in partnership with the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission and the County Art in Public Places committee. Additional funding provided by Greater Jewish Federation of Santa Barbara, Gail Berkus Fund for the Arts, The Towbes Foundation, Darwin Bahm, Susan Bower, Shelley & Herbert Cole, Canzu Clark, Barbara & Jon Greenleaf, Eva & Yoel Haller, Faith Henkin & Dr. Melvyn Lane, Joann C. Holderman, Fredda and Harris Meisel, Ethel & Howard Scar, Travis Shannon, and Clay Williams.

###