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**Contact:**

## **Tigers and Jaguars: LA's Asian-Latino Art Phenomenon**

**June 30 through October 29, 2006**

**Opening Reception, Thursday, June 29, 6-8 pm**

The pioneering exhibition ***Tigers and Jaguars: LA's Asian-Latino Art Phenomenon*** opens on June 30, 2006 at the Craft and Folk Art Museum (CAFAM). Developed in collaboration with the Latino Museum of History, Art and Culture and CAFAM, ***Tigers and Jaguars*** examines the relationship and interaction between Asian and Latino communities through the expression of art and music. This exhibition will feature local artists such as Chaz Bojorquez, Richard Duardo, Linda Vallejo, and Bari Kumar, who have forged this uniquely Los Angeles-based phenomenon.

***Tigers and Jaguars*** explores the evolution of cross-cultural, grass-roots experiences that occur between Latino and Asian communities. The artists included in this exhibition do not forsake their cultural traditions. Rather, they explore the meshing of ethnicity in development of visual and sonic hybrids by intermingling symbols and iconography from both Asian and Latino cultures. Curator Kathy Gallegos points out, "In an increasingly globalized world, these artists share a desire to bridge cultural borderlines and to create new multicultural modes of artistic expressions."

The artists exhibited include a self-taught street tagger as well as a university-trained fine artist influenced by Renaissance symmetry. Artist Richard Duardo creates prints that span a visual library from Mexican popular culture to Japanese portraiture. Chaz Bojorquez began his artistic trajectory as a graffiti artist in the streets and riverbeds of Los Angeles, and his signature style is influenced both by West Coast "Cholo" graffiti and by Asian calligraphy. Linda Vallejo has incorporated the Asian "mandala" into a new series of environmental and political installations. Painter Bari Kumar, born in India, creates works that combine images sampled from newspaper headlines, street art, art history, and the artist's personal travels.

"CAFAM is excited to host this unique exhibition that combines the sensibilities of two striking cultural communities. The resulting artwork represents the influence of diversity that occurs daily in our city, and this is an important exhibition for all Angelenos to see," says Maryna Hrushetska, Executive Director of CAFAM.

***Tigers and Jaguars: LA's Asian-Latino Art Phenomenon*** is curated by Kathy Gallegos of Avenue 50 Studio, Inc. The exhibition will be on view from June 30 to September 3, 2006. An opening reception for members and VIPs will be held on Thursday, June 29, 2006 from 6pm to 8pm.

### **About Kathy Gallegos**

Kathy Gallegos is the owner of the Avenue 50 Studio, Inc., a non-profit art gallery formed to support the cultural vitality of the Mexican and Central American community of Highland Park. It is the Avenue 50 Studio's objective to provide an ongoing structure to enhance public recognition and appreciation of our multicultural art community, and engender support for visual artists, writers and poets. Kathy is also a visual artist, working in pastels, etching and

photography. She has exhibited for over 15 years throughout Los Angeles, Mexico and Honduras.

### **About The Latino Museum of History, Art and Culture**

Founded in the early 1990s, The Latino Museum of History, Art and Culture has served the Latino community through commemorative exhibitions of artists such as Paul Sierra, Patria Portatil and Cesar Chavez. Having lost its building through a City eminent domain action, the Latino Museum has been without its own site for over 3 years. Within the next 12 months, the Latino Museum will have a permanent space at the Los Angeles Theater Center when renovations are completed in mid-2007. Until then, the museum is proud to partner with five cultural institutions to present cutting edge performances and exhibitions, including the collaboration with CAFAM to exhibit *Tigers & Jaguars: LA's Asian-Latino Art Phenomenon*.

### **About The Craft and Folk Art Museum**

The Craft and Folk Art Museum (CAFAM) is a Los Angeles nonprofit cultural arts organization dedicated to the public presentation and preservation of folk arts and contemporary craft. Founded in 1965, originally as "The Egg and The Eye" by the late Edith Wyle, who passionately promoted traditional artisans and the virtue of handmade art the Museum opened in 1973. As a local Museum with global reach, CAFAM seeks to promote international goodwill and global understanding among its citizens. The Museum works to preserve and strengthen the folk culture of our community based on its belief that the quality of urban life is directly related to the vitality and diversity of viewpoints and traditions.

***High and low-resolution digital images are available upon request.***

**Craft and Folk Art Museum:** 5814 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90036

**Information:** 323-937-4230 / [www.cafam.org](http://www.cafam.org)

**Museum Hours:** Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 11 am – 5 pm, Thursday 11 am – 7 pm, Saturday and Sunday 12 – 6 pm

**Museum Admission:** General \$5.00 / Students and Seniors 3.00 / Members and Children under 12 Free / Free 1st Wednesday of month