

# Chicano and Latino Artists show their stuff

By Sean Faustina

A spectacular view of the downtown Los Angeles skyline provided the backdrop for the opening reception of "Sol De Verano - The Summer Sun" art exhibition on Friday, June 9.

Featured at the roof-top Galeria Las Americas are the works of ten Chicano and Latino Americano artists from Southern California.

More than 100 visitors attended the opening, much to the delight of Linda Vallejo, director of Galeria Las Americas.

Vallejo's gift to Latino artists is exposure, via a public forum for them to share their talent with others.

Vibrant Southern California cityscapes by William Bejarano, of Riverside appear to be in constant motion and literally grab the eyes of the viewer.

The Digital Art medium allows Bejarano to push his concept of movement.

"Everything is moving, and always seems to be in motion," Bejarano explained. "This is a new attempt from a Mexican/Latino artist to use technology to create art."

Bejarano, a muralist, whose work can be found throughout California and Cuba, created a series of computerized images with a Macintosh computer which he never intended to be shown at art exhibits.

1994 was a turning point for Bejarano, who created a diptych of "O.J. Simpson" with a Xerox electrostatic digital color printer. Bejarano received a "Special Mention" award for a digital technique that could be accepted as a painting from the First Biennial of Mexican y Chicano Painting, which was sponsored by the Institute of the Mexican Consulate of Los Angeles.

The artwork was first exhibited in Los Angeles and is now traveling to different cities in Mexico.

Particularly compelling is a series of watercolors by Los Angeles artist Julio Martinez.

Martinez said that he draws upon his life's experiences in order to produce his sensitive renderings.

"I'm growing into my work, taking a new step," explained Martinez.

The 26-year-old artist said he receives inspiration for his work while involved in relatively mundane activities.

"Sometimes I'm walking or driving and an idea hits



**William Bejarano**

Haunting images of a past love appearing on a black background provides a powerful impact which is precisely Martinez' intention.

"Cuando La Ultima La Grima Caye - When the Last Teardrop Falls" by Martinez reveals a common thread of emotion and understanding.

Other artists featured at the exhibition, which runs through September 9, are Linda Arreola, Roberto

Delgado, Beto De La Rocha, Yolanda Gonzalez, Poli Marichal, Isabel Martinez, Eric Montoya, Rene Vasquez and Linda Vallejo.

Galeria Las Americas is located at 912 E. Third Street, Suite 402, in Los Angeles. The Gallery is open Thursdays, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Fridays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call (213) 613-1347.

# El Chicano