



3rd Quarter 2011 "VISTA L.A." MAGAZINE SHOW

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SUMMARY:

MUSEUM OF LATIN AMERICAN ART

The Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA) in Long Beach is the only museum in the United States exclusively dedicated to modern and contemporary Latin American art. Jovana Lara spoke with **MOLAA President Richard P. Townsend** about the museum and its educational and cultural programs.

SIQUEIROS: AMERICA TROPICAL

David Alfaro Siqueiros, along with Diego Rivera and Jose Clemente Orozco, were part of the trilogy of great muralists that transformed art in Mexico. But in addition to his role in Mexico, Siqueiros has a specific importance in the art of the United States. In the early 1930's Siqueiros was commissioned to paint a mural in Olvera Street. The mural, known as "America Tropical" was deemed too controversial and was immediately white washed. An effort to conserve the mural and bring it back into public view is currently underway. Vista L.A. spoke with **Amigos de Siqueiros Executive Director Gregorio Luke, Director of the Getty Conservation Institute Timothy Whalen and City of L.A. Capital Projects Director Christopher Espinoza** at the recent project presentation.

SIQUEIROS EXHIBITIONS

The life, art and legacy of David Alfaro Siqueiros are featured in two unique exhibitions. The "Siqueiros in Los Angeles: Censorship Denied" exhibition at the Autry Museum of the American West chronicles Siqueiros time in Los Angeles and the influence he had on generations of local artists. The Museum of Latin American Art exhibition entitled "Siqueiros: Landscape Painter" features more classical works by Siqueiros, including many paintings which served as sketches for his murals. Vista L.A. spoke with **Autry Museum Director Jonathan Spaulding, "Siqueiros in Los Angeles" Exhibition Curator Luis Garza and "Siqueiros: Landscape Painter" Curator and Director of Mexico City's Carrillo Gil Museum Itala Schmelz.**

PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST

Artist Barbara Carrasco was inspired by the Chicano Movement and a need for Latina voices in the art world. Her iconic images have been exhibited throughout the U.S., Europe and Latin America. She has also painted numerous murals, including a mural depicting the history of Los Angeles which was eventually censored.

LACMA: OLMEC

"Olmec: Colossal Masterworks of Ancient Mexico" is a new exhibit on display at The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, also known as LACMA. **Senior Curator Virginia Fields** gave us a tour of this of more than 100 masterpieces, this exhibit includes massive portrait heads, ancient sculptures and precious artifacts from Mexico's Olmec civilization and its hierarchy.

PLAZA DE LA RAZA – 40th ANNIVERSARY

Plaza de la Raza offers cultural programming and provides year-round programs in arts education. Plaza also serves as an arts center and school of performing and visual arts. Danny Romero spoke with long-time **member of the Plaza de la Raza family Tomas Benites** about the center and the celebration of its 40th Anniversary.

WOODEN FLOOR

The Wooden Dance Floor is a top-notch dance program for kids in Santa Ana. It's quality dance program that offers more than ballet, jazz, tap and other dance classes; The Wooden Floor provides academic and family services, such as tutoring and counseling! Their motto is "From here, you can step anywhere" and once a student becomes a part of this nearly free dance program, The Wooden Floor makes a ten year commitment to them. During these ten years, a top priority at The Wooden Floor is that students will drastically increase their self-confidence and improve their school grades...and simultaneously enjoy the art of dance. We spoke with **Executive and Artistic Director Melanie Rios Glaser** about this integrated program. **Students Katherine Avila and Mario Chavez** commented on the positive impact and role The Wooden Dance Floor has had on their lives.

LATIN BURLESQUE

The world famous Conga Room in downtown Los Angeles has a new show inspired by a dance trend from the 1920's, "Taxi Dancehall: A Latin Burlesque." One of the visionaries behind this show is Choreographer Tovariz Wilson, who has worked with Janet Jackson and Britney Spears. Performed by incredibly talented dancers, this show celebrates traditional and modern Latin dance styles and musical beats. **Conga Room Founder Brad Glukstein** spoke to us on camera about why this show is relevant in Los Angeles. **Professional Dancers Josue Vega, Mikaela Arneson and Frances Nieves** spoke to us about why their excitement to be dancing in this show, what the show offers and how long they've been dancing.

HOSTS:

Jovana Lara, ABC7 Anchor/Reporter; Danny Romero, ABC7 Weathercaster