Politics In Capital Letters: a roundtable discussion on recent electoral results and political trends in Latin America

The Distinguished Panel:

• Bolivia: Nancy Postero, UC San Diego
• Venezuela: Nelson Altamirano, National University
• Chile: James Cooper, California Western School of Law
• Perú: Rodrigo Montoya, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima, Visiting Professor, UC San Diego
• Argentina: Panel Chair - Carlos Waisman, UC San Diego

DATE: Thursday, May 4, 2006  ~~~ TIME: 3:30-5:00pm

Janet Esser, Professor Emerita, Latin American Art History, San Diego State University

Arte culto, arte popular: Reciprocity in Modern Latin American Art

This talk will examine the interface between so-called fine art, folk art, and pre-European art in selected examples of Latin American art from the modern period. Motivation leading to artistic choices will also be discussed.

~ AND ~

Elizabeth Newsome, Department of Visual Arts, UC San Diego

Arte Popular in Ancient Mexico:

Understanding the Substrate of Indigenous Arts in Mexico Today

One of the particularly ambiguous areas of study concerns Mesoamerican arts of everyday life--the assemblages of objects made for popular consumption and domestic ritual that are most commonly objectified as archaeological artifacts and given slight attention by art historians, whose studies tend to privilege art produced under official patronage. This presentation examines this problem in Mesoamerican studies, and the intersection of "popular" and "elite" arts in the Precolumbian past.

DATE: Thursday, May 11, 2006  ~~~ TIME: 3:30-5:00pm

Jorge Huerta, Department of Theater & Dance, UC San Diego

Transculturating Teatro: The Confluences of Latin American and Chicano Theatre

Prof. Huerta will discuss the Chicano Theatre Movement and the influences of Latin American theatre on the Chicana/os as well as the influences of the Chicano Teatros on Latin American companies and artists. Who influenced whom? He will focus on the 1974 "Festival de los Teatros Chicanos, Primer Encuentro Latinoamericano," that took place over two weeks in Mexico City and Xalapa, Veracruz.

~ AND ~

Jorge Mariscal, Department of Literature, UC San Diego

Lazos de solidaridad: U.S. Latinos and Latin America in the 1960s

Prof. Mariscal will present an historical survey of Chicano and Mexican American internationalism with a focus on solidarity projects within the Chicano Movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s. Special attention will be given to Chicano/a solidarity with revolutionary Cuba and other Latin American movements.

DATE: Thursday, May 25, 2006  ~~~ TIME: 3:30-5:00pm

David Pedersen, Department of Anthropology, UC San Diego

Value, the Object of Migrant Remittances in Contemporary El Salvador

This presentation examines the rise of migrant remittances as a dominant feature of everyday life in contemporary El Salvador. The talk draws on ethnographic and historical research conducted in the country as well as some recent debates regarding money, value and the action of signs.

~ AND ~

Beatriz Cortez, Central American Studies, California State University, Northridge

Suicides, Mutilations, and Truncated Subjectivities: The Aesthetic of Cynicism in Contemporary Central American Literature

The cynicism that characterizes the contemporary period of the Central American postwar can be interpreted as positive because it allows us to face the norms that the Central American societies place on the individual with irreverence, and to empower ourselves and obtain access to the realm of desire. Nevertheless, cynicism has its limitations: while it allows us to laugh at our own imperfections, fears, and desires, in the end, this same cynical project leads the individuals to his or her self destruction. Suicide, as an extreme way of escaping social normativity, becomes the maximum act of cynicism, the culminating act of irreverence against society and against oneself.

LOCATION: Deutz Room, Copley International Conference Center, IOA Complex, UCSD

Lectures are free and open to the public.

For additional information call (858) 534-6050. Need driving directions? See the CILAS webpage http://cilas.ucsd.edu/