



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 13, 2008

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Ken Slavin for Museo Alameda  
210-736-0856, 210-313-0597 (cell)

**MUSEO ALAMEDA PRESENTS  
'MEXICO AT THE MUSEO'  
THREE EXHIBITIONS  
WILL CREATE A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME PANORAMA OF  
MEXICAN ART AT COUNTRY'S  
LARGEST LATINO MUSEUM**

SAN ANTONIO – The Museo Alameda – the nation's largest Latino museum and first formal Smithsonian affiliate – announces the creation of ***Mexico at the Museo*** a unique and wide-ranging collection of three exhibitions of Mexican and Mexican-American art from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to modern times.

The group of exhibitions, the first of which opens June 25 and runs in phases through February 22, 2009, is the first of its kind to be staged in San Antonio. All were created and curated in Mexico and in the United States and feature artists from both countries.

“Never before have substantial exhibitions showcasing Mexican classical, modern and contemporary art been shown simultaneously in one institution in San Antonio,” said Henry R. Muñoz III, founding chairman of the Museo Alameda. “As the Museo Alameda seeks to tell an American story, it cannot disregard our Mexican-American past. ‘Mexico at the Museo’ will emphasize the common threads of both Mexican and American art and help visitors understand the historical and contemporary dialogue between the two cultures.”

*Mexico at the Museo* comprises works from three recent exhibitions which have traveled the world to great acclaim: **“Myth, Mortals and Immortality:**

**Works from Museo Soumaya de Mexico,” “The African Presence in Mexico: From Yanga to the Present”** (conceived and curated by the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum in Chicago), and **“Escultura Social: A New Generation of Art From Mexico City”** (from the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago) .

**“Myth, Mortals and Immortality”(June 25, 2008 to January 6, 2009)** explores issues that define Mexican art and have prevailed throughout the centuries: the fusion of indigenous and European traditions, the role of Catholicism in the country’s idiosyncrasy, naturalism and fantasy, the search for identity, rituals surrounding the mystery of death and life, social activism, and the emblematic icons of “little dolls,” suggestive female patterns of sensuality and evocation. Featured artists include José Juárez, Cristóbal de Villalpando, Hermenegildo Bustos, José María Velasco, Rufino Tamayo, Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco, David Alfaro Siqueiros, Juan Soriano, Jorge González Camarena and Jesús de la Helguera.

“Audiences will be exposed to the multiple facets of Mexican life and culture in this unique exhibit,” said Eliseo Rios, director of the Alameda National Center for Latino Arts and Culture, the organization which operates the Museo Alameda. “It will help tell the story of how all of these elements have combined to form the diverse cultural mosaic of Mexico’s identity – and how that identity carries over to the Latino experience in America.”

**“The African Presence in Mexico” (November 12, 2008 to February 22, 2009)** is the largest and most comprehensive project of its kind ever presented, featuring artwork, video presentations, poetry and more. It showcases African contributions to Mexican culture. The project examines the missing chapter in Mexican history that highlights African contributions to that country over the last 500 years. It also offers an unusual opportunity for African-Americans and Mexicans to celebrate a unique bond: the fact that the first free town of formerly enslaved people in the Americas was founded in Mexico (Veracruz) and that this has resulted in an ongoing cultural tie that has only strengthened with time. The exhibition is curated by Sagrario Cruz-Carretero and Cesáreo Moreno.

The artists examined in **“Escultura Social” (July 31 to October 26, 2008)**– most of them born in the 1960s and 1970s -- re-shaped the context of

contemporary Mexican art in the 1990s and through their current work, continue to have an impact on the international art world. All aspects of popular culture and their influence on art will be examined, including television, music, advertising and even flea markets, as well as the impact of current political issues that make this contemporary art transcend Mexico and speak to people everywhere. Featured in the exhibition are such artistic luminaries as Carlos Amorales, Daniel Guzman, Los Super Elegantes, Maria Alos, Stefan Bruggemann, Julieta Aranda, Nuevos Ricos, Miguel Calderon, Pedro Reyes and dynamic young architect Fernando Romero. (It would be great to list all of the artists) The exhibition is curated by Julie Rodrigues Widholm, Pamela Alper Associate Curator of the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art and will be on view July 31-October 16, 2008.

### **About the Museo Alameda**

The Museo Alameda, the first formal affiliate of The Smithsonian Institution, is the nation's largest Latino museum. It is part of The Alameda National Center for Latino Arts and Culture, a non-profit organization that also operates the Alameda Theatre, the landmark Latino movie palace in downtown San Antonio. With more than 20,000 square feet of exhibit space and 11 galleries, the Museo is devoted to telling the story of the Latino experience in America through art, history and culture.

The Museo Alameda is located in historic Market Square at 101 S. Santa Rosa Street, San Antonio, Texas. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday; noon to 6 p.m. Sunday and closed Monday. Admission is \$4 for adults and \$3 for seniors and students, with special prices for military, groups and more. **Admission is free all day on Sundays and on Wednesdays from 4-8 p.m.**

For more information visit the Museo Alameda website at [www.thealameda.org](http://www.thealameda.org), or call 210-299-4300.