

CHEECH MARIN PRESENTS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Cheech Marin's "The Chicano Collection/La Colección Chicana"
Exhibit on View at Downtown Center for the Arts in Oxnard, CA,
Nov. 19, 2006 through Jan. 21, 2007**

OXNARD—Images of paintings by 26 prominent Chicano artists depicting urban life and the Chicano experience between 1969 and 2001 will be on view in "The Chicano Collection / La Colección Chicana: Fine Art Prints by Modern Multiples," at the Downtown Center for the Arts (519 S. C Street, Oxnard, CA 93030), November 19, 2006 through January 21, 2007.

The paintings are primarily from actor and art collector Cheech Marin's collection, which is one of the largest of its kind in the U.S., and include works by Carlos Almaraz, Frank Romero, Patssi Valdez, George Yepes, Rupert García, Leo Limón, Margaret García, and Eloy Torrez. Most of the 26 artists are from Los Angeles.

The exhibition is part of a project spearheaded by Marin that created high-quality digital reproductions (*gicleés*) of the original paintings and donated the gicleés to 50 major U.S. art museums and universities. The project is designed to advance Chicano art as a recognized school of American art and increase public accessibility to this work nationwide.

"Chicano art is American art. My goal is to bring the term 'Chicano' to the forefront of the art world," said Marin. "Using the most advanced technology available today, we are creating these important artistic expressions of the American experience as 'time capsules' to embed into top U.S. art collections and to expose them to the widest audience possible."

"We're proud to present this premiere exhibition of Chicano art for the communities within the tri-county area," said Armando Lopez, President, Downtown Center for the Arts.

The exhibition will be on view at the Downtown Center for the Arts from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, and 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free.

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THE CHICANO COLLECTION

November 6, 2006

Page 2

Marin is a third-generation Mexican American from East Los Angeles and the 1999 recipient of the National Council of La Raza's Kraft Foods Alma Community Service Award. His film credits include the new animated film "Cars" in which he provides voice-over for Ramone the Low Rider, "Once Upon a Time in Mexico" with Johnny Depp, and "Christmas with the Kranks" with Tim Allen. Since the 1960s, he has been renowned as a comedian, film actor, director, writer, musician, and art collector. His 1997 release "My Name is Cheech, the School Bus Driver" was the number #1 selling children's album in the country. A passionate supporter of his community, Marin continues to bring together painters, sculptors, writers, actors, and musicians.

The California tour of *The Chicano Collection* is made possible through the generosity of Bank of America and Farmers Insurance. For information about the exhibition at the Downtown Center for the Arts, call (805) 486-5080. To learn more about *The Chicano Collection*, call Melissa Richardson Banks at (213) 972-0884 or visit www.thechicanocollection.net.

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