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EAST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE CAMPUS NEWS



Getty awards \$150,000 to Vincent Price Art Museum

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By Jesus Figueroa

The Vincent Price Art Museum is the only community college museum to have received a total of \$150,000 in grants from the Getty foundation to participate in the “Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA.”

The VPAM will use the grants for researching and planning an exploration of Latin American and Latino art. The grants are among \$5 million worth of grants announced by the Getty.

“The grants were very competitive. The applications were due in September and we were notified in December,” VPAM Director Karen Rapp said.

Two exhibits will open in 2017 at the VPAM in collaboration with the Getty and UCLA’s Chicano Studies Research Center.

“Pacific Standard Time LA/LA: Laura Aguilar Retrospective” will be researched and developed with a \$50,000 grant. Aguilar, East Los Angeles College alumna, uses portraiture in documenting social groups who are typically marginalized in mainstream culture.

Many of Aguilar’s photographic series are autobiographical, exploring her bi-national Mexican American identity.

The exhibition will trace the development of Aguilar’s work, from early themes to more recent self-portraits that explores the boundaries between the body and iconic landscapes in the American Southwest.

It is also one of the few projects funded by the Getty’s “Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA” initiative dedicated to representing the career of a solo female artist.

“Pacific Standard Time LA/LA: L.A. Collects L.A.” is the second exhibit to be on display at the VPAM in collaboration with the Getty. The exhibit will feature 1920s legendary Hollywood figures, including, Vincent Price, Edward G. Robinson, Kirk Douglas, Otto Preminger and Natalie Wood’s collected Latin American art, from Olmec jades to Rufino Tamayo paintings.

The gallery begins with museum founder Vincent Price’s own collection, “L.A. Collects L.A.”

They examine patterns of collecting and display, the reframing of Mesoamerican antiquities as art and the ways collecting was popularized through mass media. Period rooms in the exhibit will show the history of the art, including possible reconstructions of Walter and Louise Arensberg’s foyer on Hillside Avenue, a corner of John Huston’s Puerto Vallarta home, and Bernard and Edith Lewin’s furniture store in Van Nuys.

“Both of the shows will bring a lot of attention to this campus and to East LA.” Rapp said.

“Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA” aims to take a fresh look at vital and vibrant traditions in Latino and Latin America art.

The majority of exhibitions will have an emphasis on modern and contemporary art. There will also be exhibitions about the ancient world and the pre-modern era.

The exhibitions and publications will focus on the visual arts.

“Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA” programs will expand to include music, performances, literature and even cuisine.

The Getty and planning partners LACMA, MOCA, Chicano Studies Research Center at UCLA, the Hammer Museum and programming partners LA Philharmonic and The Music Center collaborate to create a multifaceted event of artistic, cultural, scholarly, diplomatic, civic, and festive that also will leave a lasting legacy of artistic scholarship.

The grants given by the Getty will allow participating institutions the time and resources to conduct research and planning that will provide the crucial underpinning for the exhibitions, publications and related programs.

Along with the institutions which will partner, The Getty will offer three exhibitions at the Getty Center.

The three exhibits at the Getty will be: Luxury Arts in the Ancient Americas, A New Narrative: Constructed Photography from Latin America and Materiality and Postwar Latin American Art.

This will be the first time that Latino art and Latin American art may be viewed in relation to one another on a large scale.

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