

For Immediate Release

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Justice is In the Eye of the Beholder
Galería unveils new Digital Mural by Robert Karimi and Conchita Villalba

What: Galería's latest digital mural, "Justice is in the Eye of the Beholder"
Where: Galería de la Raza public mural space on Bryant @ 24th St.
When: Reception: Saturday, February 3, 2001 7-9pm.

This reception will occur concurrently with the opening reception for Galería's upcoming exhibit, Atlas(t): a Mapping Expedition/Exhibition Equipped by Asian and Latino/a Artists.

Mural Exhibition Dates: January 20th - March 23
For info: 415-826-8009

Galería is unveiling its next digital mural by two artists that are participating in Galería's next exhibit, Atlas(t): a Mapping Expedition/Exhibition Equipped by Asian and Latino/a Artists. This will be the Digital Mural Project's first collaboration between artists of Latino/a and Asian descent.

Robert Karimi, an Iranian-Guatemalteco graphic designer and performance poet, and Conchita Villalba, a graphic designer, video artist, and community arts activist of Chinese and Mexican descent, have teamed up to bring to the surface the history of racial profiling against Asian and Latino communities by law enforcement agencies in the U.S. Karimi and Villalba trace the origin of racial profiling of Latinos and Asians from the legalized mistreatment of immigrants, such as in the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, Japanese internment camps, and the deportation of unwanted braceros (Mexican migrant farm workers) to the current wave of "discretionary power" used by police forces around the country. If unjust practices of racial profiling continues, the artists say, "We will end up like the figures on our billboard: stuck in the crosshairs of the hunter, waiting for our eminent fate."

"This public mural comes at a crucial time when solutions for discriminatory police practices are being considered in California's legislature and the ACLU is encouraging victims of racial profiling to report incidents," says Digital Mural curator John Leños. "The artists are attempting to broaden the debate by acknowledging that Asians and Latinos have suffered a long history of state-sponsored discrimination."

The ACLU's campaign to report incidents of racial profiling is ongoing. Complaints can be filed by calling the hotlines 1-877-PARALOS (for Spanish) and 1-877-DWB-STOP (for English).

The Digital Mural is a series of computer-generated murals at Galería de la Raza. The series is curated by John Leños. Galería de la Raza is one of the oldest community based arts organizations in the country and is dedicated to supporting a new wave of public art through digital technology.