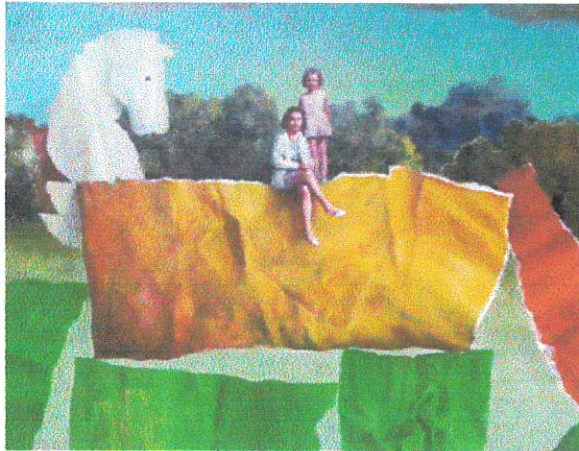




RIFFE GALLERY TO HIGHLIGHT WORK OF CHILEAN ARTISTS

by Shane Cartmill

The Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery will present an exhibition highlighting the creative freedom and diversity of Chilean artists. *Land of Latitudes: Contemporary Art From Chile* will be on display Thursday, May 12 through Sunday, July 10, 2005. The exhibition, curated by Sara Johnson, director of visual arts at the Southern Ohio Museum and Cultural Center, and Betty Talbott, director of the Ohio Craft Museum, will feature the work of 51 artists living in the South American nation.



Land of Latitudes confirms Chile's international reputation in printmaking and ceramic work, but also exhibits how the nation's artists take full advantage of every conceivable option and freedom in pursuit of personal creativity. Chilean artists operate outside the narrow specializations often practiced by North American artists. Many simultaneously explore painting, printmaking and sculpture, experimenting with materials, techniques, styles and approaches. The power of Chile's landscape is one of the threads uniting the exhibition's diversity of work. Other influences include Chile's literary figures, its indigenous cultures and its political history.

The curators note the climate for artistic production seems as exhilarating as the landscape of Chile. Cooperation and collaboration are everywhere as artists write essays for each other's catalogs, share their work with different galleries and veer off in new directions at Taller 99, a printmaking studio, or Huara Huara, a ceramic studio.

Land of Latitudes exhibits work by noted Chilean artists, including: Elisa Aguirre, Tatiana Alamos, Carlos Ampuero, Samy Benmayor, Roser Bru, Santos Chavez, Gonzalo Cienfuegos, Patricio de la O, Pablo Dominguez, Inge Dusi, Mario Gómez, Isabel Izquierdo, Benjamin Lira, Hugo Marín, Ximena Medina, Lise Moller, Rafael Munita, Rodolfo Opazo, Nevenka Pavic, Cristián Salisneros, Margarita Smith, Patricia Velasco, Monique Verdu and Paola Vezzani. An additional 27 artists participated in the printmaking project, *Children's Games*.

Since 1989, the Ohio Arts Council has taken an active role in creating an international network of peers for Ohio's artists and arts institutions through its International Program activities. "Partnerships and cultural exchanges which foster innovative ideas for current and future endeavors are important for both individuals and organizations," says Wayne P. Lawson, executive director of the Ohio Arts Council. "This partnership is based on the belief that arts and culture play crucial roles in understanding and having respect for one another."

Three events will be held in conjunction with this exhibition; all are free and open to the public:

On **Tuesday, May 10**, from 7 - 8 p.m., the Riffe Gallery will present The Readings of Pablo Neruda featuring Pedro Sánchez. The free event will be held at Columbus Metropolitan Library Auditorium at 96 S. Grant Avenue. Chilean Pedro Sánchez presents an hour-long Spanish language program celebrating the life of the South American writer, ambassador and Nobel Prize winner. For reservations, e-mail shane.cartmill@oac.state.oh.us or call 614/387-5670.

On **Thursday, May 12**, from 5 - 7 p.m., the Riffe Gallery will host a free public opening reception.

A free exhibition tour with curators Sara Johnson and Betty Talbott will be offered on **Friday, May 13**, from 12 - 1 p.m. They highlight the diversity of work included *Land of Latitudes* and explore Chile's geography, indigenous culture and political history as unique

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Current Events

In an effort to stay in line with the latest technological advances available, and to reduce printing and postage expenses, the Ohio Arts Council will launch its first electronic newsletter. *ArtsOhio* will be made available via e-mail beginning with the July/August 2005 issue. Printed versions of *ArtsOhio* will continue to be available through summer 2006, when the newsletter will go completely electronic. [more...](#)

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[Home](#) | [The Riffe Gallery](#)

Riffe Gallery To Highlight The Work Of Chilean Artists

May 12 – July 10, 2005

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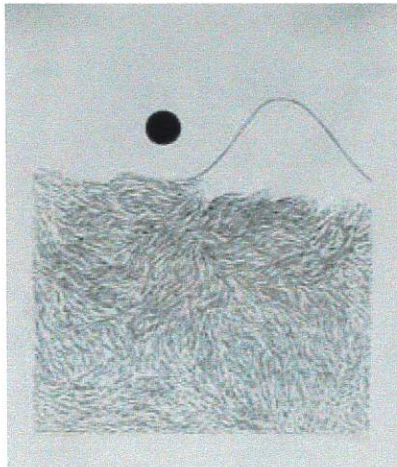
Click [here](#) to view more complete information about the exhibition.

Tour some of the works that will be on display!

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Carlos Ampuero
Portrait of a Woman
2001
oil on canvas
63" x 71"



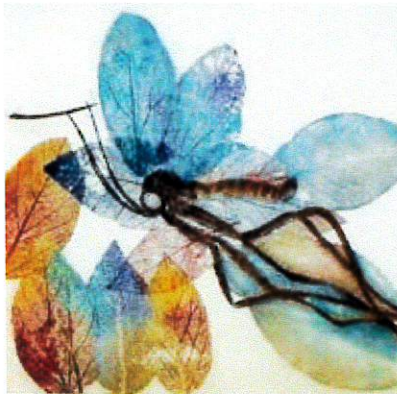
Santos Chavez
Magic Wind
no date
xylography
16" x 18.5"



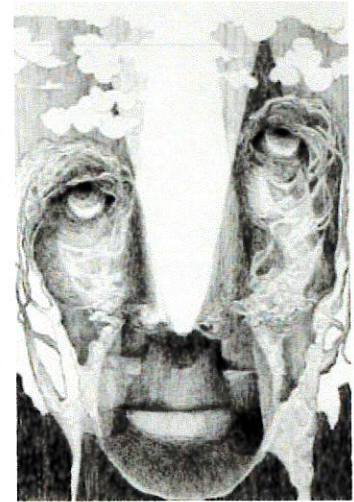
Mario Gomez
Sleep Afternoon
2003
oleo sobre tela
51" x 71"



Benjamin Lira
Bronze Head No. 1
2004
bronze, edition 1 of 6
24" x 17 3/4" x 19 7/8"



Ximena Medina
Flying Dragonfly
2003
nitric acid and soft varnish
20" x 22"



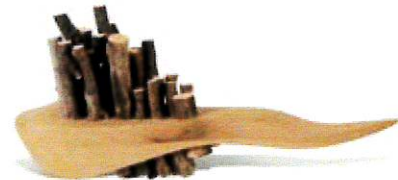
Rafael Munita
...it inspired in the face breath of life...
2001
picture in stone
22" x 14"



Rodolfo Opazo
Autumn's Moon
1998
oil on canvas
45 1/4" x 58"



Margarita Smith
Valkiria I
2003
print
11.5" x 14 3/4"



Paola Vezzani
Untitled
mixed media
6" x 19" x 4.5"

[\[top\]](#)

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