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ART 365-01, Sculpture in the Andes, Spring 1999

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Topics 365 - *Sculpture in the Andes: retablo making at Rhodes*

Spring 1999

Nicario Jimenez (with help from Carol Stewart and Mike LaRosa)

This one hour studio sculpture course will be offered once only, in the Spring of 1999, by internationally known retablo maker, **Nicario Jimenez Quispe**. Using traditional Peruvian techniques and materials, Nicario will teach students how to design and create their own personal retablo. The retablo, a sculpted, portable shrine used for devotional, decorative and instructional purposes, arrived in Peru with the Spaniards in 1532.

The purpose of this course is to explore the concepts and construction of sculptural form and embedded meaning in the making and owning of a personal retablo. It will acquaint the student with Peruvian history, spirituality, and culture. Professor Carol Stewart will facilitate the class by organizing and acquiring the necessary supplies and materials, organize and participate in critiques, and advise students outside of class. She will, additionally, work with Mr. Jimenez on evaluating students' progress and proficiency. Professor Michael LaRosa will be responsible for facilitating communications between Mr. Jimenez, Professor Stewart and the students, including translating from the Spanish, both in and outside of the class. We will delve into the development and expression of personal spirituality through discussions and comparisons of North and South American beliefs and practices.

The course will emphasize the skills particular to this important art form. Be prepared to discuss your ideas and your work in group situations, and to give and to receive constructive criticism.

Class Requirements

Log 46 total minimum hours:

Studio art courses at Rhodes require a total of 46 hours work for one hour of credit. 3 of those will be spent in class. Since this course will span only 6 weeks, you must work an average of 5 hours a week outside of class. Please note: you will need to keep a log of hours inside and outside of class. I will check this regularly. All entries should be dated and labelled for each project. You must pledge these hours.

Sketchbook/Journal:

You must keep a journal for this class, including technical procedures, notes on class discussions, and working drawings of the process of making your shrine. The journal will be checked several times during the course.

Attendance:

Class attendance is mandatory, as is punctuality. You may not miss a class for any reason. Each absence will decrease your final grade a full letter. You must inform me by phone or Email prior to missing any class for any reason.

Participation in class discussions and critiques:

You must be prepared to give and to receive constructive criticism during the semester. Feedback and active dialogue are very important for artistic growth.

Storage and clean up:

Each student is responsible for cleaning her/his space and putting away all materials and tools used. The last fifteen minutes of class will be used for cleanup. (One person each week, rotating alphabetically, will be responsible for overseeing studio cleanup. **THAT PERSON WILL HAVE HER/HIS GRADE LOWERED** if the work is not done at the end of each class. No personal materials or works in progress may be left in the studio. Unfortunately we have very limited storage space.

Grades:

Fulfilling the above requirements will attain a B - C grade. To receive an A, a student must show outstanding work, exceptional effort, growth and risk taking.

Grade breakdown:

20% Attendance and cleanup/put away

30% Retablo

15% Sketchbook: Working Drawings, Research, Ideas, Thoughts, etc.

15% Participation in classroom discussions and critiques.

20% Effort, risk taking, growth.

Critiques:

Critiques will be scheduled at least twice during the course, to exchange ideas and give and receive constructive criticism of each other's work.

Assignments: (specifics to be discussed in class)

AT LEAST one retablo is required to complete this course. This is a minimum. The retablo is constructed of many small pieces encased in a small cabinet form. Nicario will furnish the details.

Materials and Supplies

Each student will be responsible for her/his own materials. The cost should be fairly minimal, and will be discussed at the first meeting of the class.