



METRO FACULTY EXHIBITION
AT SUNY CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
Albany, New York

April 7—September 10, 2008

Three faculty members—**Mel Rosenthal, Raúl Manzano, and Betty Wilde-Biasiny**-- of the Metropolitan Center, Empire State College, will present an exhibition of their work at SUNY Central Administration Building, beginning April 7, 2008. The exhibition is part of an ongoing series of both student and faculty exhibitions, organized in conjunction with the Consortium of Art Department Chairs/SUNY. A total of fourteen works of photography by Rosenthal, watercolor painting by Wilde-Biasiny, and painting by Raul Manzano, are on exhibit through September 10, 2008.

The photographs by **Dr. Mel Rosenthal** reflect a moment in history when United States photographers were encouraged to travel to Cuba to bring back images of life after the revolution. Rosenthal begins with a portrait of leader Fidel Castro, as an indicator of time and place. On exhibit are photographs from a larger portfolio titled *Sin Fronteras (Without Borders)*. The title refers to a quote by Simon Bolivar that Rosenthal found on a wall in Venezuela, encouraging unity between all of the countries and people of Latin America. The photographs on exhibit reveal how the people of Cuba lived and how their lives were impacted by their social and political status. For example, in *Highway of Broken Dreams*, the photographer notes that, due to the United States oil embargos, the highway is rendered useless and now occupied by horse drawn carts and pedestrians.

Raúl Manzano, who is of Colombian heritage, is fascinated by the signs and symbols of America, and incorporates them into his narrative messages of the ideals, contradictions, and personal perceptions of being an American citizen. In this series of oil paintings, Manzano juxtaposes elements of material culture with the iconic Statue of Liberty and the American flag. His goal is “to ask the viewer to question how they position themselves in relationship to ideas of freedom and democracy.”

The series of watercolor paintings by **Betty Wilde-Biasiny** chronicle the artist’s personal responses to the sequence of flowers that begin to emerge in the spring. Beginning with the box of animated marigolds from the garden store and ending with the blossoming zucchini flowers, this work is an autobiographical

record of an important period of change and reflection in her own life. The medium of watercolor is used both pictorially and abstractly, an expressive instrument of slow, perceptive looking.

Mel Rosenthal is a Distinguished SUNY Professor, Emeritus, Empire State College. He is a recipient of the New York Foundation for the Arts award to individual artists, and is a nationally recognized documentary photographer and photojournalist

Raúl Manzano is a mentor in the visual arts at Empire State College, and a graduate of its Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program (2005); and holds the BFA from the School of Visual Arts, New York City (1997).

Betty Wilde-Biasiny is an assistant professor in visual arts at Empire State College. She is a recipient of the Pollock-Krasner Foundation Award for individual Artists (2000), has an MFA from Columbia University (1978), and a BFA from Ohio University (1976).

Viewers are invited to enjoy this faculty exhibition, thanks to the many dedicated organizers and volunteers of SUNY Central Administration, most notably Beth Buckner; and through the ongoing efforts of Professor Joseph Hildreth, SUNY/Potsdam and members of the Consortium of Art Department Chairs/SUNY. Our sincere thanks and appreciation also go to Dr. Joyce Elliott, the Interim President of Empire State College; and to Dr. Cynthia Ward, Interim Dean of the Metropolitan Center.

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