

For Immediate Release

For Additional Information Contact: COVA at (619) 234-0928

COVA OPEN STUDIOS 2002

LOCAL ARTISTS INCLUDED IN BI-NATIONAL TOUR OF ARTIST'S STUDIOS

Fifty-eight San Diego County and Tijuana artists and their studios have been juried into the current Open Studio Tours. This annual event, presented by the Combined Organizations for the Visual Arts, will occur on the week-ends of September 14th and 15th in the North County/Julian areas and September 21st and 22nd, 2002, in the San Diego City/South Bay and East County regions. New this year is the inclusion of bus tours to 13 Tijuana artists' studios on the third weekend of September 28th and 29th.

Del Mar artists Alix Gonzalez Dumka and Cristina Navarrete Cohn are included in the North County tour this year.

A Del Mar resident for over 25 years, Alix Dumka's art training began in her native Colombia. She has since studied in Paris, Florence, and at UCSD. Her works reside in private and museum collections in the United States, Europe and South America. Her art features bold abstract images in a variety of media including acrylics, oils, oilbars, serigraphs, etchings, viscosity prints and collographs. While her paintings frequently consist of the assertive colors and abstract forms found in her print work, they also frequently include human figures and forms. Whether purely abstract or based on human imagery each of her works clearly reflects Alix' personal and intuitive approach. She is particularly pleased to have this opportunity to share her work with people in the open studio format.

Cristina N. Cohn came to Del Mar from Central California. She received her undergraduate degree from USC and studied art at Bakersfield State College, Bakersfield Junior College and Long Beach State. She has done advanced studies in monoprinting in Santa Fe, New Mexico and Colorado. Cohn grew up in Los Angeles, experiencing the world of a large city and all of its images. This early exposure to diverse and forceful visual stimuli has and continues to inspire and influence her work. She uses this rich background and a foundation in abstract expressionism to interpret, in her own unique way, her life and relationship with the natural world. A blending of bold and intense colors combined with expressive

textures characterize her spontaneous and unrestrained works. Her many exhibitions include shows in Mexico and Cuba. Her work is in numerous collections in the US and abroad. Most recently she was one of four artists selected for the Del Mar Horse Payasada project.

Open Studios is a countywide self-guided tour of artist studios taking place over three weekends in September. The selected artists will present their work in the studio environment, making the creative process come alive. The notion behind the Open Studio Concept is that personal contact will generate better understanding and appreciation for the creative process and inform the community and its citizens of the wonderfully rich and culturally diverse artistic talent in the San Diego region. The participants will be instructed, enlightened and creatively enriched by the experience of the tours. This is the seventh year that COVA has presented the Open Studios Tour.

The Open Studios 2002 Preview Exhibition will be held at the COVA Alternative Gallery in the Robert Driver Building at 1620 Fifth Avenue, downtown San Diego, from September 7 - 30. Gallery hours are Noon to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. An Exhibition Reception will be held on Saturday, September 7, from 6 -9 p.m. in the COVA Alternative Gallery.

The Open Studio 2002 catalog and map can be purchased at the Earth Song Bookstore in Del Mar or at any Barnes & Noble/Bookstar bookstore after August 25th or by calling (619) 234-0928 for other outlets, or to order a catalog. The cost per catalog is \$20.00. The catalog is the admission ticket to this event. It is good for two people for the two San Diego County weekends. Tickets for the Tijuana Artists' Studio Tours are available at \$55.00 per person for an all day excursion, including a lunch, a stop at the Centro Cultural de Tijuana and a wine tasting at the L.A. Cetto Winery.

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