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Artwork Available

Camarillo, CA - California State University Channel Islands Art Program presents **Photographic Portraits by Donna Granata: The Art of Building Community**. These works are part of her Focus on the Masters (FOTM) Portrait Series.

The exhibition will take place at the John Spoor Broome Library Gallery on the CSUCI campus beginning on September 3 and continuing through October 7, 2009. The public is invited to attend a reception for the artist on Thursday, September 24, 6-8PM. The gallery hours are 10AM-5PM Monday through Friday.

Donna Granata is well-known for her portrait series of outstanding artists. A Brooks Institute graduate, holder of an honorary Masters degree from Brooks as well as a member of the faculty of Brooks Institute, Donna has created more than 140 photographic portraits specific to this series, each one revealing the individual character of the artist.

Commenting on her work, Granata says: "When the portraits are shown in a large group, the viewer often is amazed that these acclaimed artists all reside within Ventura County or have traveled to our community and have influenced our artists. The artists photographed are no longer anonymous, not longer just a name. They are viewed as vibrant human beings. The portraits become ambassadors of Ventura County's diverse cultural community raising the consciousness of the viewer by presenting the humanity behind the creative process. I consider my FOTM Portrait Series to be my life's work."

In addition to over 40 portraits of master artists that reflect the diversity of Ventura County, the exhibit will feature three new portraits of artists Tesi Sanchez-Halpert, George Yepes and Linda Vallejo.

Tesi Sanchez-Halpert of Moorpark is a sculptor who recycles everyday metal castoffs into whimsical objects. In 2004 Tesi suffered a massive stroke and was told she would likely not be able to continue her rigorous work as a sculptor. That challenge was met with good humor and fierce tenacity. Her work and her life story is an inspiration to all.

George Yepes' work is passionate, filled with blazing colors and tackling emotional subjects. He is a leading figure in Chicano art with work that transcends cultural boundaries. He founded the Academia de Arte Yepes to encourage the development of artistic talent. In addition to his work with the Academia, he is frequently a lecturer at local community colleges and galleries.

Linda Vallejo is as important as an artist as she is as an advocate for issues on race, gender equity and the business of art. Working in mixed-media, she draws on Native American tradition of respect for the earth and Latino cultural heritage.

The John Spoor Library Gallery is located in the center of the CSUCI campus, 1 University Drive, Camarillo, CA., 93012. For additional information, contact the, CSUCI Art Program at 805-437-8570, Email: art@csuci.edu or visit the web site: <http://art.csuci.edu/gallery>

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