

## **Huichol Art Preview Exhibit**

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May 2 marked the preview exhibit of Huichol Indian yarn paintings which will begin a European tour June 16 in Amsterdam. The preview reception, held at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Los Angeles, was hosted by Los Angeles Mexican Consul General and Mrs. **Javier Escobar** and Mr. and Mrs. **George White** of Beverly Hills. Representing UC MEXUS at the gala event were **James W. Wilkie**, **Edna Monzón de Wilkie**, and **Susan Schroeder**.

In January, exhibition director **John H. Bowles** and Mexican scholar and writer **Juan Negrín** visited **Ludwig Lauerhass, Jr.**, Wilkie, and Schroeder at UCLA's Latin American Center and discussed the possibility of a Los Angeles-based exhibit upon the return of the Huichol collection to the United States. A catalog featuring the artworks as well as a cultural and historical survey of the Huichol was also considered.

The exhibit consists of 50 *tablas* which vary in size from 16 inches square to 4 by 8 feet. These *tablas* are actually expanded, elaborated versions of Huichol artifacts created by the Huichol on traditional religious pilgrimages. On these journeys, peyote is ingested and the subsequent hallucinogenic experience produces exotic, mystical visions-many of which are reflected in the yarn drawings.

The Huichol are a group of indigenous peoples living in the Sierra Madre Occidental of Jalisco and Nayarit, Mexico. In part because of their isolation the Huichol have retained many of their unique cultural features, particularly linguistic and religious elements.

Negrín hopes to build support in order to permanently install the artworks in a cultural center for the Foundation for the Preservation of Traditional and Sacred Art of the Huichol. The foundation is a Mexican institution that he and a number of Huichol have established with the help of Cultural Survival, Inc., a non-profit organization based in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Also helping Negrín with his work are the Friends of the Huichol Culture, Inc., of Berkeley, California. Individuals or groups interested in more information about the exhibit may contact: John H Bowles (213) 276-9902.