

PRESS RELEASE



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Latino Cultural Center presents Tradición y Evolución: Santos de Palo from Puerto Rico

The [Latino Cultural Center](#) is proud to present: “Tradición y Evolución: Santos de Palo from Puerto Rico”. The exhibit explores the diverse traditions of religious art and looks more closely at one country’s interpretation of the santos tradition. Works are from Mr. Hector Puig’s collection and exhibit is co-curated by Mr. Puig and Ms. Viola Delgado. The Latino Cultural Center will open the exhibit beginning November 3, 2005 at 5:30 pm with an opening reception that is free and open to the public. Also being offered in culmination with the exhibition, The Latino Cultural Center presents two wood carving workshops for “Santos de Palo,” taught by Senior Artisan, Pedro Pablo Rinaldi Jovet. Learn the wood carving techniques of “Santos de Palo” creation. This workshop will be presented to the public November 4 from 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm and November 5 from 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm for adults and children 12 and up. Open to the public. Workshop Registration Fee;

(continue)

LCC, santos de palo, p.2

\$20.00 per class, includes materials. Only cash or checks will be accepted and checks must be made to Pedro Pablo Rinaldi Jovet. Space is limited; reservation is required. To reserve your space call: 214-670-3320. **Air transportation provided by American Airlines.**



The term *santo*, a Spanish word meaning “saint” or “holy”, refers to an image of a saint or other holy figure from the Catholic celestial pantheon. Devotion to saints was introduced to Puerto Rico in the sixteenth century by Spanish colonists who used representations of saints for devotion and prayer as well as aids in the conversion of native Taínos and Africans who had been brought to the island as slaves. These small portable figures, ranging in height from four to twenty – five inches, were created by self – taught rural carvers known as *santeros* or “saint – makers”, whose figures were revered as manifestations of the saints’ spirits and as objects of devotion. Most santos originate from the rural farming region of the Cordillera Center or the mountainous southwestern part of the island. During Puerto Rico’s pre-industrial period, from about 1850 – 1940, carved images of the saints served an important role in rural communities, where churches were scarce and poor road made access to churches difficult. For the believer, the santos were and are more than sculptural representations of popular saints and legends. Devotees believe that each figure is imbued with the saint’s spirit whom they invoke through prayer to intercede with God on their behalf.

The Latino Cultural Center is supported by the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs. The mission of the Latino Cultural Center is to serve as a catalyst for the preservation,

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LCC, santos de palo, p.3

development and promotion of Latino and Hispanic arts and culture in Dallas. The Center is located at 2600 Live Oak, Dallas, Texas 75204 and is open Tuesday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For additional information, call 214-670-3320.

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