

Picturing Paradise

Cuadros from the Peruvian Women of Pamplona Alta as Visions of Hope



An exhibition linking art, faith, and justice

EXHIBITION FACT SHEET

SPONSORED BY: **Con/Vida – Popular Arts of the Americas**
Curated by Rebecca Berru Davis in collaboration with
Con/Vida Co-Directors: Barbara Cervenka, O.P., and Marion Jackson, Ph.D.

DESCRIPTION: *Picturing Paradise* is an exhibition that features embroidered and appliquéd fabric pictures called *cuadros*, created by the women of *Compacto Humano* and *Manos Anhashinas*, two art cooperatives located in Pamplona Alta, a shantytown situated on the outskirts of Lima, Peru. The exhibition places emphasis on the women as artists and the way their art reflects creativity, resilience, and hope despite the harsh conditions of their lives.

The exhibition is the result of three separate commissioned projects. *Hopes and Dreams* (January 2006) consisting of fifteen *cuadros*, depicts each woman's personal aspirations for herself, for her family or for the world. *Inspirations and Motivations* (January 2007) illustrates narratives about each woman's life and the individuals and the communities that sustain her. *¿Quién soy yo? (Who am I?)*, the most recent project (July 2008), brings to light each woman as an individual and at the same time, the interconnectedness of her life in relationship to others. The core exhibit consists of forty small *cuadros* (10"x 10" or "10 x 18"), text labels and contextual photos. Additional *cuadros* in the exhibit (numbers and size vary) highlight memories of the women's past lives, the realities of their present experiences, and images of the world they would choose to shape.

CONTENTS: About seventy *cuadros* varying in size and ready to hang, contextual photographs, descriptive labels and explanatory text.

TERMS: Rental: \$500.00 for one month, \$100 for each additional month, plus shipping (via UPS) and insurance. The exhibition is packed in two cardboard boxes. Shipping costs are usually less than \$100 one way in the continental U.S. All proceeds related to rental of the exhibit help support the women and their art, as well as the on-going research and advocacy work related to the project.

EXHIBITION SCHEDULE: *Picturing Paradise* has been exhibited at

- 2006 The University of St. Thomas Luann Dummer Center for Women, St. Paul, Minnesota
Basilica of Saint Mary John XXIII Gallery Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 2007 United Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota
Princeton Theological Seminary Erdman Art Gallery, Princeton, New Jersey
- 2008 Brynn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Brynn Mawr, Pennsylvania
- 2009 Dominican School at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California
College of William and Mary Muscarelle Museum of Art, Williamsburg, Virginia
Miraflores Cultural Center, Miraflores, Lima, Peru
- 2010 Montana State University-Billings Northcutt Steele Gallery, Billings, Montana
St Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church, San Francisco, California
St. Mary's Notre Dame Moreau Art Gallery, South Bend, Indiana

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