

Judy Baca to speak on Chicano art

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Muralist Judy Baca will speak on Chicano art at 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 5, in the International Center at the University of California, San Diego.

Preceding Baca's talk will be "Soldado Razo," an acto by Luis Valdez performed by the UCSD Teatro, at 7 p.m. in the International Center.

Baca is noted for her project "The Great Wall of Los Angeles," a 1,360-foot mural depicting California's history. The mural is in 13 chapters and runs along the west wall of the Tujunga Wash Flood Control Channel.

Work on the mural began in the summer of 1976 and is still in progress. Baca supervises crews of youth workers from the city's summer youth programs. Former director of the Los Angeles Street Mural Program, Baca was responsible for organizing and helping paint more than 100 murals around the city from 1974 to 1977.

"In black neighborhoods, the kids worked on themes about blacks, in Chicano communities the kids worked on murals about Chicanos, and in Japanese neighborhoods it was the same," she said. The mural about California history "gave us the opportunity to bring all of them together so they could learn about each other."

Scenes are carefully researched by historians and artists before they are drawn on the 100-foot high mural. Baca also presents the unglamorous side of California history, including the destruction of Indian tribes, the Japanese relocation camps and the Oklahoma migration of the Great Depression.

"As muralist, I am committed to a process that brings community together with the artist for the creation of an art product," said Baca. "It is through this process that the artist often becomes a visual spokesperson for the issues affecting the community."

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