



Smithsonian Institution

NEWS

Aug. 10, 1992

ARCHIVE

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HIRSHHORN TO PRESENT
LATIN AMERICAN FESTIVAL SATURDAY, SEPT. 5

“Latin American Festival for Families,” a daylong program of music, dance, gallery tours and a children’s workshop celebrating the final weekend of the Hirshhorn Museum’s “Crosscurrents of Modernism” exhibition, will take place at the museum on Saturday, Sept. 5, from 11 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Admission will be free.

Performances will take place throughout the day in the museum’s Ring Auditorium. Among those featured will be the Washington-based Spanish Dance Society, exploring rich dance traditions of Spain, Cuba and Mexico, and the Conjunto de Colores (Group of Many Colors), presenting such traditional and contemporary music of the Americas as samba, plena and bossa nova. Chilean folk musicians and a troupe of singers and percussionists from Otonowa, the D.C. Afro-Cuban Society, will also perform.

Tours of “Crosscurrents of Modernism: Four Latin American Pioneers” will be given in English throughout the day and in Spanish at noon. The exhibition, which ends after Labor Day, traces the innovations of Mexico’s Diego Rivera, Joaquín Torres-García of Uruguay, the Cuban Wifredo Lam and Chilean-born Matta. Active earlier in this century, these Latin American painters created a new, multicultural modernism from sources as diverse as Cubism, Surrealism, Pre-Columbian art and the Afro-Cuban Santería religion.

Along with the tours, there will be an afternoon workshop based on a second exhibition, titled “Drawing with the Masters.” Both children and adults will be invited to explore the innovations of Rivera, Torres-García, Lam and Matta first-hand by making and experimenting with their own drawings.

The festival, organized by Teresia Bush of the Hirshhorn’s Education Department, is made possible by a grant from the Smithsonian National Board.

The Smithsonian’s Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden is on Independence Avenue at Seventh Street S.W. The nearest Metro stop is L’Enfant Plaza, Smithsonian museums exit.

Aug. 12, 1992

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**HIRSHHORN OPENS EXHIBITION FEATURING COLLABORATIVE
“ANIMAL FARM” PAINTING BY ROLLINS AND K.O.S.
WITH D.C. STUDENTS—LECTURE AND RECEPTION SET FOR SEPT. 16**

Press preview: Wednesday, Sept. 16, 10 a.m.-noon,
"Directions" gallery on the third floor, Rollins will be
present. R.S.V.P. (202) 351-1618

“Directions—Tim Rollins and K.O.S.: *Animal Farm*,” an exhibition that will feature, as its centerpiece, a mural-scaled contemporary barnyard scene inspired by George Orwell’s classic 1945 fable, *Animal Farm*, opens on Thursday, Sept. 17, at the Smithsonian’s Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, and continues through Dec. 6.

The 9-by-45-foot composition was conceived and executed as a collaboration by artist-teacher Tim Rollins and his South Bronx-based collaborative, K.O.S. (Kids of Survival), with the participation of 11 Washington, D.C., high school students. It continues a theme that Rollins and K.O.S. have been exploring since 1987 when they first chose *Animal Farm* as one of the sources for their collaborative efforts.

The barnyard scene, painted in brown onto canvases lined with pages from the Orwell book, shows George Bush, Fidel Castro, François Mitterand and dozens of other world leaders caricatured as animals—a fox, dog, turkey and so on. Studies by each of the students, as well as three earlier *Animal Farm* compositions by K.O.S., will also be on view.

To launch the exhibition at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 16, Rollins and K.O.S. members will give a free “Focus” talk in the Hirshhorn’s Ring Auditorium, followed by a reception on the museum’s third floor. There, in the “Directions” gallery, the exhibition can be viewed beginning at 6 p.m.

Rollins and K.O.S. collectively create artworks based on classics of literature. Their works are exhibited internationally and represented in numerous museum collections, including

the Hirshhorn's. Comprised of a 37-year-old Maine-born artist-educator and mostly Latino junior and senior high school students, the group recently began bringing its innovative artmaking program to urban teen-agers outside of New York—Pittsburgh, Boston, Minneapolis, London, Derry (Northern Ireland) and now Washington.

As part of the "Directions" exhibition series, Rollins and K.O.S. began working with the Hirshhorn earlier this year to organize a workshop for local students. Eleven students from seven District high schools—chosen from about twice as many who applied—participated in a five-day workshop this past July at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Georgetown.

The workshop began with a combined study of the Orwell book, world events, political geography and the history of zoomorphic caricature. In constant dialog with Rollins and the three K.O.S. members who accompanied him, local students then chose and matched faces with animals through collage and montage, made some 25 studies, and helped decide where these would go in a broadly horizontal, fenced-in composition. By the end of the workshop, students had painted eight hybrid creatures on text-covered canvas panels. The work was then shipped back to the group's South Bronx studio where Rollins and the full corps of six K.O.S. members completed the composition using the same collaborative process.

Participants in the D.C. workshop included Sylvester Mobley of Theodore Roosevelt High School, Anthony Melvin of Eastern High School, Kirby Kok and Taiwo Heard of the School Without Walls, Anthony Mincey of Ballou High School, Diana Zumas and Julia Davis of Sidwell Friends School, and Nekisha Durette, Henry Melendez, Trevor Cain and Micah Lee of the Ellington School. The three K.O.S. members who worked with Rollins in Washington, D.C., were Angel Abreu, Victor Llanos and Nelson Savinon.

The exhibition, organized by Hirshhorn Assistant Curator Amada Cruz, will be accompanied by a free, illustrated brochure with an interpretive essay, exhibition history and bibliography.

"Directions—Tim Rollins and K.O.S.: Animal Farm" is made possible, in part, by Loews L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, Washington, D.C. Focus exhibition talks are supported, in part, by the Washington Post Co.

The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Independence Avenue at Seventh Street S.W., is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. The nearest Metrorail stop is L'Enfant Plaza, Smithsonian museums exit. Admission to the museum is free.

Noticias del Instituto Smithsonian
de Washington

10 Agosto 92

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