

Cinco de Mayo

Artist Quarter: Celebrating the Work of Rene Hugo Arceo

Spring Song, a fresh and emotionally stirring opus that bursts forth from Chicago based print maker and painter, René Hugo Arceo, opens a symphonic field of visually impressive images that reflect his love and appreciation of nature. Featured in a recent exhibit entitled, “Rhythms of Nature,” this piece resonates with the joy and melodies of spring where easy smiles from strangers and deliciously warm air, alive with the giddy enthusiasm of life, coax flowers and plants to emerge from their eclipsed hiding places.

Arceo became interested in depicting nature subjects because he was born near Lake Chapala, in Mexico, one of the largest lakes in the area and his hometown was about 5,000 feet above sea level. He has always enjoyed and appreciated the outdoors and nature simply because it was something that was always around him. “My uncles were fishermen, my father worked taking care of a fruit orchard. At home my father planted all kinds of fruit trees/plants including avocado, orange, passion fruit, grapes, [and] guavas,” Arceo recalls.

Arceo, a fine arts graduate of the Art Institute of Chicago and art teacher for children grades one to eight, says that an effective strategy for attracting Latino Americans to nature would be to sponsor family activities in parks and nature centers. It’s sort of an *if you invite them, they will come* philosophy. People will participate in nature and wildlife activities when presented with opportunities, he says. “Latin Americans have a deep connection with nature and enjoy being in the outdoors as an extension of their places of origin. So, if opportunities are provided they will participate,” he explains.



“Spring Song”

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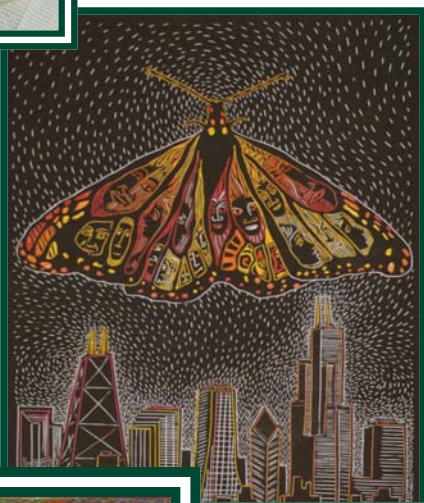
This month we feature Arceo's work in celebration of Cinco de Mayo, observed annually on May fifth. The holiday commemorates the defeat of the French by Mexicans led by General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguín in the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. People in the U.S. and around the world celebrate Mexican history and traditions on this day. Arceo's work has been featured in many Cinco de Mayo festivals and exhibitions highlighting this important Mexican historical event.

--Valerie Rose Redmond
External Affairs

Below: "Sol.Luna"



Above: "Spring Freshness"



Above, Left: Arceo with wife Beata and son, Ollin

Above:
"Monarca sobre Chicago";

Above, Right:
"Dolphins"



Above: "Fish-Eye"



Above: Doves