

TOGONON GALLERY

For Immediate Release
San Francisco, CA, May 3, 2011

Solo Exhibition

“Conviction and Emotion: The Art of Luis Gutierrez from the 1970s to Now.”

Exhibition Dates: Tuesday, May 3- Sat, June 11.

Opening Reception: Saturday, May 7, 4- 6.30 p.m.

Togonon gallery is very pleased to present a solo show by master artist Luis Gutierrez entitled “Conviction and Emotion: The Art of Luis Gutierrez from the 1970s to Now.” This exhibition brings into focus painting and assemblage, two of the main mediums that Gutierrez has explored and created over the span of forty years.

Luis Gutierrez occupies a unique position amongst other Mexican-American artists working in the United States today as he has worked in both the U.S. and Mexico through his career. Born in Pittsburg California, Gutierrez’s love for art overcame considerable obstacles, and his artistic achievements are hard-won. Born in the small industrial town of Pittsburg, California, he went to work shining shoes and selling newspapers as a child when his father died, and later, in local steel mills. Despite his lack of exposure to museums and galleries—“I grew up in a house without books, music or pictures on the wall”—he found himself increasingly drawn to art. Through the medium of assemblage Gutierrez is able to invoke a sense of collective nostalgia in our society. He does this through the inclusion of small objects that he has gathered from a lifetime of collecting. In his paintings, Gutierrez uses color and gesture to express emotion. Building upon international avant-garde styles, Gutierrez creates pieces that reflect the cultural sentimentalities of the time. His PTSD series, for example, illustrate portraits of veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder as a response to the war in Iraq. Gutierrez explains: “Passion is the motivating force that excites me to create and curiosity is the tool that allows me to push the limits.”

During the 60's and 70's, Gutierrez garnered national recognition through the inclusion of his work in two prominent national survey shows. In 1962, Gutierrez received the prestigious James D. Phelan Award. In addition to a solo exhibition at the de Young in 1971, Gutierrez exhibited at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Palace of the Legion of Honor, Triton Museum, San Jose Museum of Art, Oakland Museum, Mexican Museum, Instituto Allende in Mexico and university galleries in the U.S. Gutierrez earned his Bachelors of Fine Arts from San Jose State University in 1957 and his Masters of Fine Arts from the Instituto Allende at San Miguel de Allende in Mexico in 1958. He taught at San Jose City College from 1969 until his retirement in 1995. Gutierrez lives and works in the South Bay.

For more information, contact:

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