

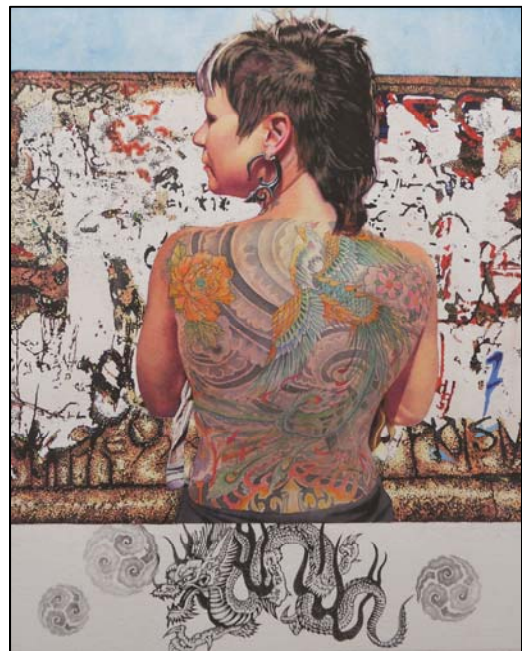
For Immediate Release
October 16, 2012

GREGG STONE: "NEW AZTLAN" AT RAFFMA

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. — New Aztlan is a unique blend of artist Gregg Stone's natural talents, academic training and life experience resulting in a large body of work meticulously and passionately documenting life on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border.

New Aztlan is part of a greater art exhibition, "PERSPECTIVES," on display Oct. 1-Dec. 15 at RAFFMA, Cal State San Bernardino's Robert and Frances Fullerton Museum of Art. An opening reception will be held on Sept. 29 from 5-7 p.m. at the museum, with a preview for Friends of the Museum at 4:30 p.m.

The "PERSPECTIVES" exhibition, curated by Eva Kirsch, features four other artists – Linda Vallejo, Luis G. Hernandez, David Rosales and Kathy Sosa – each of them in a solo exhibition with its own title. RAFFMA also will host a panel discussion with Vallejo, Hernandez, Rosales and Stone on Thursday, Oct. 18 from 4-6 p.m.



Gregg Stone, *Silke*, 2011.
Watercolor, gouache and ink.
Courtesy of Festival of Arts, Laguna Beach, CA.

Gregg Stone's paintings are as captivating as his personal story. His perspective is very personal, formed by a long and devastating episode of drug and alcohol abuse, which drove him south of the border, to the streets and gutters of Tijuana more than three decades ago.

Miraculously recovered, Stone became a full time artist in 1999. He dedicated his skills and talents to the people whom he met during his excruciating addiction episode, "the forgotten" ones as he names them – the baggers, addicts, prostitutes, who befriended him when he was nearly dying in Tijuana. They helped him to see, beyond the stereotypical and the obvious, what others typically don't want to see. With a highly perceptive eye, stunning precision and

-more-

GREGG STONE: "NEW AZTLAN" AT RAFFMA

2-2-2-2

almost disarming honesty, Stone continues to document their stories.

"There is a story behind each of the images, and there is a message in each of them," says Eva Kirsch, RAFFMA director and exhibition curator. "Stone is a great narrator. Compassionate and sympathetic, spotting beauty in people and places typically avoided, he has been depicting these with utmost pride and dignity."

Stone has been often described as "a gringo with a soul of a Latino." He started as a keen and genuine observer and narrator of life on both sides of the border but now he increasingly identifies himself with the Chicano movement and Chicano art.

"Born within a hybrid society of La Raza that is neither completely Mexican nor American, Chicano art is a result of a long journey unintentionally creating the new identity," says Stone. "As it continues to evolve, this journey parallels the Aztec people themselves on their sojourn from Aztlan to their mighty empire in Mexico City; their transformation from a wandering tribe to a mighty warrior nation. The proud Aztec history, struggle for the survival and dignity of the working class, or anger toward discrimination are often violently expressed through Chicano art hoping for our judgmental society to understand their plight and frustration."

Although Stone classifies his art as "modern realism," there is much more to it than just skilled, realistic rendition. "What is very striking about his works is their realistic rendering and the conventional use of linear perspective combined with highly sophisticated use of space, which seems to be the key to the overall success of his art," says Kirsch.

About the Artist

Gregg Stone received his associate arts degree from Orange Coast College, followed by a bachelor of fine arts degree from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena. Since 1999, he has become an award-winning and internationally exhibiting artist. His artwork has been exhibited at UC Irvine and art museums in various U.S. cities, including Albuquerque, Las Vegas, San Diego, El Paso, Lancaster, Bakersfield and Pasadena. In 2002, he began exhibiting his work internationally, with a group show at La Casa de la Congresso in Mexico City, solo exhibitions at IMAC group, Casa de la Cultura and Palacio Municipal in Tijuana. His work has also been shown at all eight ICBC galleries in Baja California. In 2010, Stone exhibited work in Tokyo and Slovakia.

About RAFFMA

-more-

GREGG STONE: "NEW AZTLAN" AT RAFFMA

3-3-3-3

The Robert and Frances Fullerton Museum of Art is a nationally recognized museum accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. It is the only accredited art museum in San Bernardino. Located at Cal State San Bernardino, RAFFMA has accumulated a permanent collection of nearly 1,200 objects focusing on Egyptian antiquities, ceramics and contemporary art. General admission to the museum is free. Suggested donation is \$3. Parking at Cal State San Bernardino is \$5 per vehicle.

The museum is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and is closed Friday and Sunday. For more information, call (909) 537-7373 or visit the RAFFMA website at <http://raffma.csusb.edu>.

#