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**HOMAGE TO SIQUEIROS    HOMENAJE A SIQUEIROS**

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The spirit of Mexican muralist David Alfaro Siqueiros has come to pay a visit to East L.A. "America Tropical," his only Los Angeles mural painted at Olvera Street, has been recreated by artists Eva Cockcroft and Alessandra Moctezuma on an exterior wall of the arts organization Self Help Graphics.

Siqueiros painted the original "America Tropical" in 1932, the mural was completely whitewashed in 1938 because of its political content--content that is still relevant to the immigrant community today. The Getty Conservation Institute has just completed preservation of the mural and El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument is investigating ways to display it. Currently "America Tropical" is covered up by a curtain and wood structure to protect it from any further damage.

Cockcroft and Moctezuma re-painted the powerful image as an homage to the Mexican master by the artists of Los Angeles and worked with SHG to locate it in the heart of the Mexican-American community. Established and emerging artists were invited to participate in the painting of the mural. Chaz Bojorquez, painted the title lettering and graffiti artists "Vyal" and "Jade" and Mexico City native Gabriel Galan also worked on the mural.

Highly visible from Avenida Cesar Chavez, the just completed "Homage to Siqueiros/Homenaje a Siqueiros," not only re-presents the original but encapsulates its history with the addition of two images in black and white on either side. On the left, an image of Siqueiros with his team, painting the mural in Olvera St. On the right, the mural being whitewashed with onlookers supervising. A legend explains the history of the piece.

The new "Homage to Siqueiros/Homenaje a Siqueiros" presents an important element of the Mexican heritage in Los Angeles to the East L.A. community. Cockcroft and Moctezuma hope that bringing the image back to a very public arena will uncover the history of this masterpiece and draw people to the restored original just three miles west on Cesar Chavez.

There will be a celebration of the new mural on Saturday, December 5, 1998, from 1 PM - 3 PM at Self Help Graphics (3802 Cesar Chavez Ave. corner with Gage). The dedication ceremony, free and open to the public, will include presentations by artist Eva Cockcroft and Alessandra Moctezuma, Self Help Graphics executive director Tomas Benitez, and historian Jean Bruce Poole with El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument. Refreshments and entertainment will be provided. For information please contact: Alessandra Moctezuma (626) 798-6916 or Eva Cockcroft (310) 301-9522.