

As the country's leader in mural production and documentation, SPARC maintains a strong reputation for its domestic and international projects. The organization administers, under the auspices of Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, the City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Pride-Great Walls Unlimited mural program which produced 15 murals in 1990 and houses an art gallery and mural resource center. SPARC is funded by the City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs, National Endowment for the Arts, California Arts Council, Pac Bell and the Ahmanson, Hitachi, Rockefeller and ARCO Foundations.

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CONTROVERSIAL MURALS BY LOS ANGELES ARTIST APPROVED
BY SOVIETS FOR DISPLAY IN MOSCOW'S GORKY PARK

LOS ANGELES (July 11, 1990) -- Murals painted by a Los Angeles artist depicting contemporary issues will be displayed in the first public exhibition of such murals ever allowed in the Soviet Union beginning this Saturday.

Judith Francisca Baca, artistic director of the Social and Public Art Resource Center ("SPARC") in Venice, California, will exhibit her recent works, THE WORLD WALL: A VISION OF A FUTURE WITHOUT FEAR, in Moscow's Gorky Park.

In an unprecedented display of glasnost, the USSR Ministry of Culture, in cooperation with The Foundation for World and Man, a Soviet organization that provides assistance to victims of communist oppression, authorized an exhibition of the completed panels of THE WORLD WALL. The content of the murals is politically controversial and they are the first ever to be seen by Soviet citizens other than state-sponsored portraits of Stalin and Lenin.

For more than a decade Judith Baca has dedicated her talents to the easing of racial and ethnic conflicts between Los Angeles' multi-ethnic communities. Her desire to expand this domestic

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concept to the international community has resulted in the creation of THE WORLD WALL, a series of seven murals, three of which have been completed for the Soviet exhibit, that depict contemporary issues of global importance: war, peace, cooperation, interdependence and spiritual growth. The message of THE WORLD WALL is that people of all races, cultures and ethnic groups must begin to work together toward a future of global peace.

Traditionally, a muralist's message reached only those people who came to a particular mural sight. Ms. Baca has broken the bounds of muralism by bringing her message to the people. She consulted a local engineering firm which designed a portable exhibit to support the 10' x 30' panels that assemble into a circle, 100' in diameter, that is viewed 360° by an audience standing in its center.

The exterior walls of the structure provide space for seven additional panels. The exhibit will travel to other countries where one artist from each country will be selected by THE WORLD WALL Committee to create his or her own "A Vision of a Future Without Fear." As a symbol of peace and friendship, each piece will be gifted to SPARC including the Soviet work painted by artist Alexi Begov which will be displayed in the exhibition. Ms. Baca has been invited by the Smithsonian Institute to display the completed WORLD WALL in the spring of 1991.

SPARC was founded in 1976 as a non-profit arts organization dedicated to the production, exhibition, distribution and preservation of public artwork.