



Judith Baca plans a world tour for "The World Wall," including this "Triumph of the Heart" panel.

ferences and exhibits about working toward world peace. The event is sponsored by the international group Performers and Artists for Nuclear Disarmament, and it will coincide with a temporary opening of the border between Finland and the Soviet Union.

Baca expects "The World Wall" to tour for about five years, although the tour still is in the planning stages. When the mural visits other countries, artists there will create panels that will be displayed on the exterior of the circular exhibit structure. Los Angeles architect Paul Lubowicky designed the structure.

In many ways, "The World Wall" is similar to "The Great Wall of Los Angeles" mural that Baca organized and designed. The half-mile-long "Great Wall," painted along the Tujunga Wash flood control channel in North Hollywood, depicts Los Angeles' multiethnic heritage. Baca said she initiated that project to promote local interracial harmony, just as she has initiated the "World Wall" project to promote world harmony.

Baca is SPARC's artistic director and one of its founders. The exhibit of her mural panels continues there through July 22. For information, call (213) 822-9783.

Art history: At the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum, visitors experience Western history not only through displays of artifacts but also through exhi-

bits of artwork.

A new exhibit there presents 19th-century California history as recorded by artists of the state from that period. The works depict important events in the state's development, including its exploration, gold rush and settlement. The works also depict the people who created this history, including American Indians, Hispanic vaqueros and European and Asian pioneers.

Among the highlights are James Walker's images of vaqueros (cowboys) in the 1870s, which dramatically depict Hispanic traditions and life. Frederick Butman captures a scene from the state's settlement in his painting of a Chinese fishing village. Grace Carpenter Hudson painted portraits of American Indians, while William Jewett and Ernest Narjot depicted hardy pioneers.

Other paintings represent the landscape tradition among artists working in California. Among the featured painters are Albert Bierstadt, Edward Deakin, Ransom Holdridge, William Keith, Julian Rix, James Stuart and Jules Tavernier.

The paintings are from the collection of the California Historical Society, which is based in San Francisco. The collection has never before been exhibited in a comprehensive manner outside of the Bay Area.

"El Dorado: Paintings of the Golden State from the California Historical Society" continues through Nov. 19. The museum is

at 4700 Zoo Drive in Griffith Park, adjacent to the Los Angeles Zoo. For information, call (213) 667-2000.

Graphics: Since 1972, Self-Help Graphics & Art in East Los Angeles has encouraged and promoted Hispanic artists in Los Angeles. Along the way, the organization has earned much praise for the high quality of work that has issued from it.

A significant part of Self-Help's programming is its screen-print atelier program, which enables artists to work in a silk-screen studio with a master printer.

Twenty recent prints from the atelier program are on view at the 801 N. Brand Gallery in the Allstate Building in Glendale.

The works vary in content from Glenna Avila's representational depiction of her infant daughter to Michael Amescua's abstract rendering of a goddess.

Other featured artists are Georges Yepes, Patssi Valdez and David Botello.

The exhibit is the second half of a two-part show titled "Merging Cultures," which began in May with a showing of paintings, sculptures and mixed-media works by such artists as Gilbert Lujan and Frank Romero.

The Self-Help prints are on view through July 20 in the gallery, located in the Allstate Building lobby, 801 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale. The gallery is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, and admission is free. For information, call (818) 502-6758.

ART NEWS & NOTES

DARYL H. MILLER

Baca hopes 'Wall' can scale barriers



Judith Baca would like to spark serious thought among those who see "The World Wall," her portable mural that depicts people working toward world peace.

"I would like to be able to create a vision of the future without fear," said the artist, who lives in Venice. "If you don't start the imagining — the dreaming — we really can't expect things to occur. Everything starts with a dream. This (mural) is making solid that dream, solidifying the vision."

Baca hopes the "The World Wall" will spread this vision throughout the world during an upcoming global tour.

The tour won't begin for at least another year because the seven-panel mural isn't completed. Local audiences can see a preview, however, by taking a look at two finished panels that are on display at the Social and Public Art Resource Center (SPARC), 685 Venice Blvd., Venice.

Baca is painting the mural on seven canvas panels, which will be displayed on the interior of a specially designed, circular chain-link fence structure. Each panel is 10 feet tall and 30 feet wide, and the completed installation will be 100 feet in diameter.

"As it travels from country to country, it is an arena — physically and metaphorically — for a dialogue on the issues," Baca said.

Baca is designing and executing "The World Wall," but in a sense, the creative process is a collaborative one. She is seeking input from many people, including foreign university students and scientists.

The mural depicts the spiritual and physical transformations that must take place within people worldwide so that peaceful change can occur, Baca said.

Beginning from the left, the panels depict the spiritual transformation as people gain global consciousness and then join with others to work toward peaceful, positive goals. From the right, the panels depict the physical transformation as people decide to put aside the war economy and direct their labor toward a peaceful economy in which technology is used to address human issues such as hunger and health care.

The two themes converge in the center panel, which depicts the world in peaceful balance.

This center panel, titled "Balance," is one of the pieces displayed at SPARC. It depicts a lush Earth where food grows in abundance. The sun and moon hover above, and the sun is giving birth to a black infant — a metaphorical image of children being born in an enlightened world.

The other exhibited panel is "Triumph of the Heart." It depicts five figures — representing different ethnic groups — whose eyes have heart-shaped pupils. Beside them, a lone figure sets off into the darkness to face winds of war. The figure carries a candle, and this illumination casts a shadow shaped like Gandhi. The panel represents enlightened people who set out to make a difference with their lives, Baca said.

So far, Baca has completed these two panels and has nearly finished a third. She hopes to finish the rest by next June.

She has set that goal because she has received an invitation for the mural to be shown in Helsinki, Finland, next year at A Meeting of the Worlds, a series of con-