

News Release

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Barbara Metz (619) 283-1303
Danielle Reo (619) 544-1482

inSITE97 Lecture Series Presents Leading Cultural Figures of the Americas

SAN DIEGO/TIJUANA—A lecture series, featuring some of the most influential cultural figures of the Americas, is part of the community engagement component of inSITE97. The lectures are organized by inSITE97, University of California, San Diego (UCSD) Office of Latin American Studies, Stuart Collection and Visual Arts Department, as well as the Liberal Arts and International Programs Department of UCSD Extension and the Centro Cultural Tijuana. Lectures at UCSD are sponsored by the Helen Edison Lecture Series.

Coco Fusco, a New York City-based writer and interdisciplinary artist who has lectured, performed, exhibited and curated programs on four continents, will speak at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 3, at Robinson Auditorium, Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, UCSD. Her lecture, which will be in English, is expected to be a sell-out; therefore early arrival is suggested.

Fusco's collection of essays on art, media and cultural politics, *English is Broken Here*, received the 1995 Critics Choice Award from the American Educational Studies Association. "Two Undiscovered Amerindians Visit..." a collaborative installation/performance by Fusco and Guillermo Gómez-Peña, was selected for the 1993 Whitney Biennial of American Art, the 1992 Sydney Biennale and the 1992 Edge Festival in Madrid and London. Her videos have been broadcast on public television, have been included in the New York Film Festival and have received the award for Best Performance Documentary at the Atlanta Film and Video Festival.

Carlos Fuentes, a legendary Latin American author and statesman who possesses a worldwide literary following, will present two lectures. Fuentes will speak at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 24 at UCSD's Mandeville Auditorium. The lecture, sponsored by the Mexican Cultural Institute of San Diego, will be in English

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with Spanish translation available. Fuentes will speak at noon on Saturday, Oct. 25, at the Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes y Mina, Tijuana. This lecture, sponsored by TELMEX, will be in Spanish with English translation available.

Born in 1928, Carlos Fuentes spent his youth in Washington, D.C., where his father was posted as a Mexican diplomatic representative. As a teenager, he lived in Argentina and Chile, as well as his native Mexico. These early experiences gave Fuentes his unique hemispheric perspective and literary voice.

The author of more than 20 books, Fuentes' eclectic fiction ranges from political spy thrillers (*The Hydra Head*) to erotic ghost stories (*Aura*), from baroque world dream histories of the Spanish-speaking world (*Terra Nostra*) to caustic indictments of the frozen Mexican revolution (*The Death of Artemio Cruz*). Again and again, Fuentes has shown himself to be a pioneer of the "magical realism" style that has captivated readers and critics around the world. His novel, *Old Gringo*, was the first by a Mexican author to become a best-seller in the United States.

Fuentes has been celebrated throughout Europe and the Americas as one of the world's leading literary figures. He has been honored with the French Legion of Honor, the Cervantes prize from Spain, as well as the most significant literary awards in Mexico and Venezuela. He has served as Mexico's Ambassador to France and he was an active participant in the quest for peace in Central America.

Carlos Monsiváis, an acclaimed Latin American journalist and writer, will speak at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 6, at Robinson Auditorium, Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, UCSD. He will speak in Spanish, with English translation available. This lecture has received additional support for the Mexican Cultural Institute of San Diego.

Monsiváis was educated at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México in Economics and Philosophy and Letters. He received a Doctorate Magna Cum Laude from Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana. He has received numerous awards including the National Award for Journalism in 1977, Award "Jorge Cuesta" in 1986, Award Manuel Buendía in 1988 and Award "Mazatlán de Literatura" in 1988. A prolific author, he was awarded the Medal "Benito Juárez de la Ciudad de México" by the Mexican Society of Geography and Statistics in 1995.

Gerardo Estrada Rodríguez, director general of the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes, will speak in Spanish at 7:30 p.m., at the Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes y Mina, Tijuana. Estrada is also a member of the political and social science faculty at Mexico's national university (UNAM). Previously, he has served as the director of Mexican educational television programming, sub-director of cultural diffusion at UNAM, cultural attaché at the Mexican Consulate in Chicago, director of Mexico House in Paris, director general of the Mexican Radio Institute and the director general of the National Council for Culture and the Arts' (CNCA) Border Cultures Program.

During his tenure with the Border Cultures Program, he witnessed firsthand the vital importance that social interaction along the border has for Mexico and the United States. He considers the border area one of the most fertile areas for developing the arts. His interest in cross-border artistic dialog led Estrada to become an early and strong supporter of the inSITE concept. He is currently president/Mexico of the **inSITE97** board of directors.

Teodoro González de Leon, one of Mexico's most notable contemporary architects, will lecture in Spanish at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 13, at the Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes y Mina, Tijuana. González, noted for the profound nature of his designs and the wise simplicity of his solutions, was part of the team that designed the Ciudad Universitaria in Mexico City. He was a frequent collaborator with Abraham Zabludovsky, one of Mexico's most famous architects. His works are regularly featured in publications, periodicals and exhibitions. Among his books is *Arquitectura contemporánea mexicana: Obras de Teodoro González y Abraham Zabludovsky*.

The lecture series also includes a presentation by **inSITE97's** four curators, **Jessica Bradley, Olivier Debroise, Ivo Mesquita** and **Sally Yard**. Their lecture (in English and Spanish) will be at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 24, at the Casa de la Cultura de Tijuana, París y Lisboa #5, Colonia Altamira, Tijuana. They will discuss the process and contextual content of **inSITE97**. For information on this lecture only, contact the Casa de la Cultura, (66) 37-31-22.

Information on lectures in San Diego is available from the **inSITE97** office at (619) 544-1482. Information on lectures in Tijuana is available from the Centro Cultural Tijuana (66) 84-11-11.

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