PRESS RELEASE

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Exhibition launches cultural exchange between sister cities Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Canary Islands and Santa Cruz, California
November 6 – December 6, 2009

What: Opening of exhibition Cielo/Sky featuring artists from Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Canary Islands.

Where: multiple locations in downtown Santa Cruz and University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC)

When: Friday November 6, 2009 (First Friday)

4:30 pm Opening reception at Porter College Faculty Gallery (UCSC)
6:00 pm Welcome reception with Mayor Cynthia Matthews and curator, Miriam Durango from Tenerife, at the Museum of Art and History Atrium 705 Front Street
7:00 pm Opening reception at Lulu’s at the Octagon, 118 Cooper Street
8:00 pm Felix Kulpa Gallery, 107 Elm Street

The exhibition Cielo/Sky, curated by digital media artist Miriam Durango from Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain and organized by curator and photographer Shelby Graham from Santa Cruz, California, is the first part of a cultural exchange between the two sister cities.

Cielo/Sky features artists from the island of Santa Cruz de Tenerife exploring our relationship with the sky both environmentally and psychologically through a diverse array of mediums.

Several artists relate the sky to the notion of heaven, as in Alby Alamo’s video work and José Barrios photographs portraying places of leisure. Artists Pérez & Joel and Angel Padrón focus on the sky as portal to the universe using animation and painting. Video works by artist teams Oscar Hernández & Beatriz Lecuona and Israel Pérez & María Requena show a darker side of the sky in their interpretations of storm and nightfall. Other participating artists are David Ferrer (photography & video), Claudio Marrero (video), Laura Benavente (photography) and Fernando Larraz (photography).

The Canary Island artists will exhibit their work at three Santa Cruz venues November 6 – December 6, 2009: Lulu’s at the Octagon Building (Museum of Art and History), Porter Faculty Gallery at UCSC, and Felix Kulpa Gallery (Nov. 6 – 29). The opening reception for Cielo/Sky will take place during “First Friday,” November 6, 2009 in the participating venues. Curator Miriam Durango will give a lecture at UCSC on Thursday, Nov. 5 at 10:30am for the course, Intro to Digital Media in Oakes 105.

The second part of the exchange will take place in February 2010, when artists from Santa Cruz, California, will exhibit their work in Tenerife.

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