

PRESS RELEASE:

September 24, 2008

For immediate release:

Through October 31, 2008

For more information:

Laura C. Lieberman, 770/949-2787

Amber Wilburn, 770/942-5022

**“LATINO RACES” AT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE --
Recent Paintings by Five Hispanic Artists Featured**

Douglasville, Georgia – The Hispanic Business Round Table in partnership with the Douglas County Chamber of Commerce and the Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County presents an exhibition showcasing the diverse talents of five Latino artists – Cuban master Marcelino Vizcaino, Peruvian Luzy Mantillo, and Puerto Rican artists Teresa Bibiloni, Dr. Lily Gomez, and Jaime del Valle -- in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month during October. The exhibition opens Thursday, October 2nd, and will be on view through October 31st. The opening reception will be held on Thursday, October 1st, from 6 until 9 p.m. at the Douglas County Chamber of Commerce, 6658 Church Street, in historic downtown Douglasville. This event is free and open to the public.

Widely considered one of the finest landscape painters in Cuba as well as one of the revitalizers of the genre, Marcelino Vizcaino studied at the Ecole Nationale des Artes in Havana. After an early period painting in an expressionist style, he began his exploration of landscape painting. In his most masterful canvases, Vizcaino uses his distinctive hyper-realistic style to capture not merely a realistic rendering of a tropical scene but an emotion-laden spiritual scenario, often topped with towering cloud formations. His precise brushwork and delicately layered veils of color are amply evident in the six paintings at the Chamber of Commerce in Douglasville, a rare American occasion to view his works.

The best of Dr. Lily Gomez’s paintings in the current exhibition display an almost boisterous joy in color and action filled narratives, like “Daniel” and “Daniel Turtle Chasing.” Born in Arecibo, the Puerto Rican pediatrician has lived in the Mableton, Georgia, area since 1985, and she has volunteered hundreds of hours as scuba diver at the Georgia Aquarium. Her profession and volunteerism may account for children and marine environments being favorite subjects of her paintings. Dr. Gomez is currently a staff physician at Scottish Rite Children’s Hospital in Atlanta.

Teresa Bibiloni was born in Puerto Rico 77 years ago, and one especially charming artwork included here is an original poem about the small house in the mountains where she was born, illustrated with a lovely pencil sketch of the *casita*. Of equal interest is her portrayal of a narrow path meandering through a hillside landscape of towering trees in “El Yunque,” which literally translates as “The Anvil,” but refers to a peak in Puerto Rico’s central *cordillera*, or mountain range. Bibiloni studied painting at the *Escuela de Artes Plastica* and the Art Students League in San Juan where she also earned her Bachelor’s degree from the University of the Sacred Heart.

Peruvian artist Luzy Mantilla works primarily in watercolor and pastels, although she has begun experimenting with mixed media pieces. Her watercolors on display in Douglasville include portraits of native children at Lake Titicaca and native women in a traditional market. Trained as an interior designer in Mexico City, Mantilla immigrated to Virginia in 1987. Her work has been displayed at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton and the Fairfax County Government Center in Virginia.

Puerto Rican artist Jaime del Valle uses acrylics to depict flowers along the historic streets of Old San Juan, a strolling peasant musician in the countryside, an overflowing pot of geraniums, a sailboat racing before a sky filled with clouds, and a tranquil rainforest pool in “La Poza.” Del Valle is best known for his streetscapes of historic San Juan where his work is represented by Puerto Rican Arts and Crafts Gallery on Fortaleza Street at the center of Old San Juan’s gallery district.

“The Arts Council has been presenting changing art exhibits at the Chamber of Commerce for at least three years now, and last year we worked with members of the Hispanic Business Round Table to present our community’s first *Dia de los Reyes* festival,” commented CAC director Laura C. Lieberman. “We are delighted the Round Table has developed an exhibition, ‘Latino Races,’ in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month this October. On October 12th, Columbus Day, here in the U.S.A., Hispanics around the globe celebrate *Dia de la Raza*. This show and its artists are certainly cause of celebration! We think everyone will enjoy these paintings, selected by Lorraine Tully who is a new member of the CAC Board of Directors as well as a founder of the Hispanic Business Round Table.”

The mission of the Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is to nurture, guide and stimulate the enjoyment of and participation in the arts among Douglas County residents. The Cultural Arts Council and its exhibitions at the Cultural Arts Center and throughout the community are supported in part by the City of Douglasville, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners, and Georgia Council for the Arts, which is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information, please contact the Cultural Arts Council at 770/949-2787 or visit our web site, www.artsdouglas.org.

THE CULTURAL ARTS COUNCIL OF DOUGLASVILLE/DOUGLAS COUNTY
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PHOTOS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST



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CALENDAR LISTINGS: EXHIBITS

TITLES	LATINO RACES BIBILONI, GOMEZ, MANTILLA, DEL VALLE & VIZCAINO
PLACE	Douglas County Chamber of Commerce 6658 Church Street Douglasville, Georgia 30134
DATES	October 1 – 31, 2008
RECEPTION	Thursday, October 2 nd , 2008 6 until 9 p.m.
GALLERY HOURS:	Mondays – Fridays, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
COST:	Free and open to the public
CONTACT:	Laura C. Lieberman, 770-949-2787 Amber Wilburn, 770/942-5022

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