



210 N Santa Fe Avenue | Pueblo, CO 81003
www.sdc-arts.org | (719) 295-7200

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Contact: Alyssa Parga,
Director of Marketing & Development
719-295-7211 | alyssa@sdcsdc-arts.org

Latest Exhibit to Feature English and Spanish Text, Subjects Artist Tony Ortega Juxtaposes Cultures in Vibrant Fashion

(Pueblo, Colo.-January 31, 2019) Those visiting the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center may be familiar with its permanent collection of Mexican folk art which includes retablos (devotional paintings using iconography derived from the Catholic church, often on wood or tin), but viewers of the "Doble Sentido," or "Double Meaning," exhibit will be treated to something wholly different. This exhibit will be on display until May 26, 2019, and offers artwork placards and artist statements in both English and Spanish.

Artist Tony Ortega uses his art to reflect a cultural and historical confluence. Says the artist, "For me, hybridity is a process that intersects two separate cultures. It is a constant process of negotiation between different cultural groups, a form of intercultural dialogue. Hybridity can be viewed as the space where communication between cultures takes place."

With colorful and vibrant images superimposed on forms resembling traditional santos and retablos, Ortega's work merges more than cultures - it mixes media, subject matter, and identity in a way which makes the viewer feel as though they are witnessing a small riot somehow constrained to a board hanging from a wall.

Hours of operation are Wednesday-Saturday, 11am-4pm and Sunday, 12pm-4pm. Regular admission prices are \$8 for adults and \$6 for children, seniors 65+, and military. For more information, visit <https://www.sdc-arts.org/exhibitions>.

FREE OPENING EVENT: Friday, February 1, 5 - 7 pm. Live music by Briana Hankla, food and bar are all free and open to the public. Sponsored by an anonymous cowgirl.

ART TALK: Saturday, February 2, 11 am. Hear from the curators and artist about the "Doble Sentido" and "Representing the West" exhibitions. Included in price of admission.

About the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center:

The cultural hub of Southern Colorado, the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center gives visitors the tools to think and act creatively through a three building complex including seven galleries offering the best in historic and contemporary art by artists of local, regional and national renown. The Arts Center offers the Buell Children's Museum, recognized as the second-best for art by Child magazine, a 500-seat theater featuring a variety of performing arts programs, both local and national, and two gift shops. Over 100 fine arts, dance, and leisure classes are available quarterly providing unique offerings to everyone from children to adults of all skill levels. Admission to the Arts Center is \$8 for adults, \$6 for children, seniors 65+, and military. For more information, please call 719-295-7200; stop by the Arts Center located at 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., just off of I-25, exit 98B, or visit online at www.sdc-arts.org.

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