



Information Resources Center
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BINATIONAL CENTERS' ACTIVITIES

BUCARAMANGA

Seminar The Opera a Thousand Years of History



At the Centro Colombo Americano, 90 participants attended a two days seminar about the history of the opera with the commentator and musical critic Emilio Sanmiguel Arango who spoke on the history of the Opera through its high points, from its inception until the advent of the XIX century.

Music critic Emilio Sanmiguel was born in Bucaramanga, and was the architect of the Bogota Javeriana University where he served as professor and director of design degree programs.

He has been a music critic and commentator since 1981 and the winner of the National journalism award SIMON BOLIVAR for the best original work in Radio Culture in 1997

This seminar was a great success in participation and positive comments

Painting Exhibition “Las Bohemias” by Elberto Ortiz Ribero

The “Las Bohemias” art exhibition opened last Thursday May the 7th at 7 p.m. The third art exhibition in 2009 at Centro Colombo Americano of Bucaramanga. The exhibition is entitled “Las Bohemias” by the artist from the Colombian Department of Santander Elberto Ortiz Ribero, who is the curator of the Museum of Modern Art of Bucaramanga. The exhibition consisted of 21 paintings of mixed techniques on canvas.

In this exhibition, the artist’s project pays homage to women since it exalts their joy and sense of enchantment through vigorous strokes full of light which is the characteristic of his artistic trajectory at both regional and national levels.

Elberto studied drawing and painting at the David Manzur workshop in the city of Bogotá. He also completed a major in engraving at the Cavañas Institute of Guadalajara (Mexico) and at the Reyes Heróles Institute of Mexico City.



Among his collective and individual exhibitions both in Colombia and abroad, it is worth highlighting his participation in the *Salón Regional de Artistas* (Artistic Regional Exhibition) in the year 2006 where his work was selected.

BARRANQUILLA

Performance of “Don Quijote Busca Sancho” Monologo

The Centro Cultural Colombo Americano presented in commemoration of “Language Month”, the artist and playwright Anibal Tobón, with his monologue “The Quijote looks for Sancho”, based in the famous novel of Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra. The presentation took place at the Lincoln Gallery of our Center on April 30th at 8:30 p.m.

Anibal Tobón finished his studies at the Barranquilla School. His university studies include Graphic Arts at “Universidad del Atlántico” from 1969 to 1971; Theater at the Vincennes University (Paris VIII) in France, from 1973 to 1975; film script at the Film Institute in Estocolmo, Sweden in 1983; and International Relations at the Uppsala University in Sweden from 1989 to 1990. Besides, many workshops and seminars about journalist theater, visual arts, working with children, he was the winner with his group “El Sindicato de Barranquilla” from the regional reception room of visual arts in 1977 and he also won the first award at the National Reception room of Visual Arts in Bogotá in 1978. At the beginning of the 70's, Anibal Tobón settled down in Paris, France where he studied theater at the University of Vincennes, and took part as an actor in several short films. He has worked as a journalist for several mass media in Barranquilla and for the “Nueva Voz” agency in Sweden. Now, he lives in Salgar and works in Barranquilla conducting different workshops.



Exhibition: “ XIII Bienal de Miniaturas by Luisa Palacios”



The Centro Cultural Colombo Americano of Barranquilla and the “Taller de Artistas Gráficos Asociados - TAGA- of Venezuela presented the 13th Luisa Palacios Biennial Exhibition of Miniature Graphics developed in 2008. This event was inaugurated on Thursday May 14th at 8:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Gallery.

The purpose of this exhibition was to give the graphic artists of Barranquilla and the general public, the opportunity to see graphics with what is happening in the field in different countries of Latin American and Europe.

Works of graphic art by artists from Venezuela, Mexico,

Argentina, Perú, Italia, Guatemala, España, Ecuador and Colombia were on exhibition.

The Biennial Exhibition of Miniature Graphs, founded by the “Taller de Artistas Gráficos Asociados” has grown stronger as time has gone by as an event for the exchange of experiences and knowledge between the artists who were participating and the diverse expressive alternatives of the graphic art in small format. One hundred and seven (107) works by the same number of artists were on exhibition.

Student for the Centro Cultural Colombo Americano from Barranquilla wins Logo Contest for new section of the United States Embassy in Bogota

In April, the United States Embassy in Bogotá announced a contest in order to select the logo for a new web page section dedicated to youth audiences, which will also have useful tools for Colombian English teachers. With this purpose in mind, the Embassy invited kids and youth from seven to eighteen years old, to participate by sending their designs.

In response to this announcement, the George Washington Public Bilingual Library of The Centro Cultural Colombo Americano Barranquilla, widely promoted the contest and invited the students and visitors to participate. The designs of nine contesters were sent to the Embassy and we were surprised by knowing the winning results. Sandra Vargas, one of our students, won the first place, the price of the contest enables her to access to a full scholarship to study English at the Colombo Americano Barranquilla. Sandra is a seventeen year old student from first semester of the Bilingual Assistant Administrative Program. She plans to finish her intermediate career, to find a job afterwards and begin her studies in art design.



The concert of The “Duo Bonomo Rodriguez and Chamber and String Orchestra from Bellas Artes



The Centro Cultural Colombo Americano presented a Cuba and Latin-American music recital in charge of the Bonomo - Rodríguez Duo (Patti Bonomo, Mezzosoprano y Yamira Rodríguez, pianist), and the “Orquesta de Cámara y Cuerda” (Chamber and String Orchestra) from Bellas Artes, on Thursday May 21 at the Lincoln Gallery, at 8:30 p.m.

The Bonomo - Rodríguez duo was created in 2001 in Barranquilla and dominate an extensive repertoire

which goes from the most complex classical music works to theater music and American movies. Similarly, they perform interpreted classical typical Cuban songs of great rhythmic strength and lyricism like Ernesto Lecuona, Gisela Hernández, Duarte y O’Reilly, among others. Besides, they perform popular Colombian songs by composers like Pedro Briava, Hans Federico Neuman, and Luis Carlos Espinosa.

The “Orquesta Cámara y Cuerda” (Chamber and String Orchestra) from Bellas Artes was constituted in March of 2008 by students and teachers of the music program of the faculty Bellas Artes School, with the shared musical direction of professor German Cañon (violinist) and Carlos Eduardo Sampayo (double bassist). His primary target is to upgrade the technical and interpretative level of its members, and to spread all the musical types, with emphasis on the classic repertoire.



The program included songs like: “Unica Mar”, “Mi corazón lo trajo el mar” and “Solo por el Rocío” of Gisela Hernández; “Mariposa”, “Canto Karabali” and “Siboney” of Ernesto Lecuona; “Almendra” (Danzón) of Abelardo Valdés; among others.

Used Book Fair

The George Washington Public Bilingual Library of the Centro Cultural Colombo Americano celebrated the twenty seventh edition of the "Used Book Fair".

Months before this event, the library collected books donated by the users, members, and personnel from the Colombo.

The library also requested donations from local schools, universities, libraries, publishing companies (Editorial Norma, Peter-sons), Banco de la Republica and The United States Embassy in Bogota.

The fair was widely promoted in bookstores, schools, universities, on regional TV news, radio, and newspapers (Heraldo, ADN, Libertad)

This year we welcomed approximately to have 900 visitors, most of them teachers and students from the colombo, and other institutions.



CALI

17th annual ELT Conference and Book Fair "Best Practices in ELT"



On May 8 and 9th, 400 teachers, students, presenters, plenary speakers and representatives of publishing companies attended the Cali BNC's annual conference for English teachers. Among the attendees were teachers and coordinators from the BNCs in Bogotá, Armenia, Manizales, and Pereira as well as modern languages students from Universidad de Nariño y Universidad Distrital. One of the plenary speakers was Juan Carlos Grimado, the coordinator of the Colombia Bilingüe Project of the Ministry of Education who gave an overview of what has been achieved so far and of the types of initiatives the Ministry is conducting in order to further the goals of this project.

Gallery Opening for the artista Gloria Palacio in the North and Buga branches of the Colombo Cali

Gloria Palacio is a master in the art of printmaking, and her Works are filling the art gallery with the beauty and subtlety of nature. The exposition will be in Cali until June 5th, and then will travel to the Magenta Gallery in Buga, where it will be an extension of the Colombo art gallery. In addition to the exhibit titled “La Huella”, a series of five posters were designed to teach the Colombo population about the art of printmaking. This bilingual series show guests the different techniques and methods of printmaking.



Expert journalist Luis Costa Ribas in the Colombo Americano—Cali



The U.S. Embassy in Bogota brought the journalist Luis Costa Ribas to the Colombo Americano in Cali to chat with local journalists as part of the Embassy's U.S. speaker program. Mr. Costa is a journalist who has specialized in conflict situations and war zones and gave an interesting chat about his experiences in the field. He also did activities in Cali with local universities and media.

MEDELLIN

Eurocine 2009 at the Colombo

The 15th version of Eurocine in Colombia took place from April 15th to 19th with more than 30 films being featured. The people from Medellin gathered at the theaters of the Centro Colombo Americano and enjoyed some comedy, drama, animation and documentaries from twelve European countries. This year's version of the famous European cinema festival, Eurocine, had alternate programming that included films, music, dance, gastronomy,



and a conference about Europe's role as a strategic continent for the world's economy. All these activities had full-attendance, showing the audience's interest towards European culture. The events, free of charge, invited attendees to take a trip around Europe and to enjoy the best of its culture all throughout April. More than 4.000 people attended this year's Eurocine over the 5 days that the festival lasted.

Crazy about Jazz - Conference Cycle at the Colombo



The Centro Colombo Americano held the conference cycle "*Crazy about Jazz*" from February 24th to April 28th. This free event gathered a select group of musicians and experts in the field so that they could show the magic of this music genre that is growing stronger in the city. Some of the people invited were masters Juancho Vargas and Jaime Uribe who referred to topics such as Classic Jazz: a Musical Blast, the Caribbean and Jazz: Sound without Frontiers, Latin Jazz in Colombia and the World, and Today's Colombian Jazz, among others. More than 1.000 people attended the event.

Audiovisual Copyright Seminar at the Colombo Americano



The copyright seminar: “A look to the audiovisual and digital sector” took place on April 23 and 24. The event was organized by the Centro Colombo Americano Medellin and the *Especial Administrative Unit - National Direction of Copyright* (Unidad Administrativa Especial Dirección Nacional de Derecho de Autor), which is an organization attached to the Colombian Ministry of Interior Justice. This seminar aimed at supporting knowledge and fostering debates regarding copyright in the field of audiovisuals let authors and owners know about its management and implementation. The seminar covered topics such as the responsibility of internet providers in relation to audiovisual work, the challenges of the digital setting, and the limitations, exceptions, and economic stimuli for

this sector in Colombia. These topics were discussed by experts like Fernando Zapata –General Director of the National Direction of Copyright Colombia; Janeth Lara Ceijas –Sub director of the National Center of Copyright (CENDA) in Cuba; and David Melo –Director of Cinematography of the Colombian Ministry of Culture, among others. Three hundred and eighty (380) people attended this free event which was held at the Auditorium Alfonso Moreno in Comfama.

MANIZALES

Soccer for Peace with the New York Police Department Soccer Team



With the sponsorship of the Redbull New York Soccer Team, a group of 20 members of the NYPD visited Manizales from May 20th to 27th with the purpose of bringing new hope to underprivileged children. The NYPD soccer team shared unforgettable moments of joy at three public schools in Manizales: “Fé y Alegría” at El Caribe, and Galán, two underserved neighborhoods, where hundreds of children prepared welcome speeches in English for the team, played soccer, and enjoyed participating in the activities coordinated by the U.S. Embassy and the BNC. The Redbulls of New York sponsored a huge donation of T-shirts, soccer shoes, soccer balls and other supplies for the underprivileged children at those schools.

The NYPD also visited public schools and played soccer with the Police Department in Armenia, Santa Rosa de Cabal and Manizales.

BNC Librarians to Expand Outreach Programs

Eleven librarians from the nine BNCs in Colombia met in Manizales for a two-day workshop intended to provide them with new tools to expand outreach programs in their communities. “The BNC Library: Beyond the Walls”, proposed by the BNC in Manizales, was awarded with a U.S. Embassy grant to invite María Gentle, Youth Services Coordinator at the Central Library in Arlington, Va. The workshop provided the participants with the opportunity to get to know each other, share their best practices, and learn how to enhance and improve outreach programs, thus improving their services to the communities by identifying underserved groups, designing appropriate activities for definite target audiences, and putting programs into practice.



Information Resource Packs for “Escuela Activa Urbana” in Manizales



The Embassy of the United States donated a collection of books in English and Spanish containing American Literatura, History, Geography, Democracy, among other issues, to three public schools. The three public schools are currently seeking for the improvement of English competency among teachers and students through a special program sponsored by “Fundación Luker”, supported by the Centro Colombo Americano. All primary school teachers are learning English from March 2008, and they will reach B1/B2 levels in the Common European Framework for English learning by December 2009. In addition, 16 English teachers in secondary school are improving their English

and methodology skills through a reinforcement course of English and the TEFL Certificate Course. José Fernando Osorio, the IRC Assistant at the U.S. Embassy, met with the three school principals and teachers to present the donation.

Roseanna Vitro and the Jazz I Am Band in Manizales

The Centro Colombo Americano in Manizales hosted the “Roseanna Vitro and the Jazz I Am Band”, one of the Jazz quartets touring around the world thanks to the partnership between Jazz at Lincoln Center (JALC) and the Department of State Bureau for Educational and Cultural Affairs. The Program is designed to foster cultural exchanges with audiences worldwide. International activities include public concerts, master classes, lecture-demonstrations, workshops, jam sessions, media outreach, and collaborations with local musicians. The Ensemble played at the auditorium of Universidad Nacional on June 2 for an audience of 500 people. After the concert, there was a Jam Session with 20 young local musicians who had the opportunity to interact with the American artists.



PEREIRA

Participation in bilingual projects with Secretaries of Education or the Ministry of Education



The BNC Pereira invited public school teachers from the city of Pereira to participate in the teacher training program by Erin Lowry, currently US Department of State Senior English Language Fellow (ELF).

The invitation was done in collaboration with the Local Secretary of Education, who provided the computer room at one of the local public schools.

The participation of the teachers in the workshops on April 16 and 17, 2009, for both the public sector teachers, and the BNC-Pereira was as follows:

Workshop 1: “Authentic Listening in the EFL Classroom”

Date and time: April 16, 2009, 2:30p.m.. to 6:00p.m.

Place of event: Ciudadela Cuba Public School

Presenter: Erin Lowry (English Language Specialist)

Number of teachers: 40

Workshop 2: “Implementing Technology into the EFL classroom”

Date and time: April 17, 2009, 8:00A.M. to 12:00m.

Place of event: Ciudadela Cuba Public School

Presenter: Erin Lowry (English Language Specialist)

Number of teachers: 16

CARTAGENA

Hip Hop Festival

The Hip Hop Festival highlighted groups from Cartagena and the rest of the country. Some of the musical groups included “Los Sin Fama” and “Mariamulatas Callejeras”. The crowd roared when “Los Reyes del Piso” performed their break dance. Marsello Santana, a Brazilian singer delighted the public with his bossa nova and samba.



Lecture



On May 27, a lecture given by writer David Sanchez Juliao packed the new Amaryu Roman Roman Auditorium at the Centro Colombo Americano in Cartagena. Juliao spoke about the secrets of El Pachanga, El Flecha and Abraham Al Humor. The public enjoyed the humor and good nature of the writer. The author read some of his writings on these three characters and explained their origins; all of them arising from the diversity of Caribbean life and the author's own experience in the region.