RAÚL MANZANO

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"AMERICA ON THE VERGE OF A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN" DEBUTS AT ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE SEPTEMBER 6

American flag and Statue of Liberty paintings depict socio-economic and political themes during the 9/11 sixth anniversary

NEW YORK, August 20, 2007 – "America on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown", an exhibition by Colombian-American artist Raul Manzano, opens at St. Francis College, Brooklyn, New York, from Sept. 4 through Sept. 27. The show offers viewers a way to reflect on their perceptions and the nation's future. Mr. Manzano will be available at a public reception on Thursday, September 6, 5:00 P.M. to 7:30 P.M., to talk about his artworks and themes.

His paintings of the American flag and Statue of Liberty present issues such as freedom of speech, greed, corporate outsourcing, hope and fallen heroes. Mr. Manzano's strokes contain vivid colors and messages to draw viewers to examine these subjects since the 9/11 terrorists attacks.

Mr. Manzano's artworks have contributed to the education and dialogue of controversial issues of the day. Past exhibitions include "AIDS Awareness" in 1996 at The Broadway Mall, New York, and "en America" in 2003, which depicted the immigrant experience at the Edward Williams Gallery at Fairleigh Dickinson University, in Hackensack, New Jersey.

1

"Raúl is a sensitive artist whose artworks have been well received by the art community because of their visual appeal, themes and message on important issues. His paintings raise awareness and inspire people to take action. The exhibition meets our goals and objectives of imparting to our students, especially those majoring in the arts, social responsibility and an intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual exploration of their being," says Dr. Frank Macchiarola, President of St. Francis College.

Mr. Manzano has exhibited in the United States, Israel and Canada. His online gallery www.raul-manzano.com displays some of his most prominent works. He has been an adjunct faculty member at Empire State College in New York City and the Director of the School of Visual Arts' Summer Program Painting in Barcelona, in Barcelona, Spain. He is the former President of the West Side Art Coalition, a non-profit organization that supports and promotes the arts.

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