



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

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**ARTIST ENRIQUE CHAGOYA TO DELIVER UCCELLO  
FINE ARTS LECTURE AT UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH**



Art Museum members at the 2012 Purchase Party choosing Enrique Chagoya's *Escape from Fantasylandia: An Illegal Alien's Survival Guide* (2011) as a new acquisition for the Museum's collection.

WEST HARTFORD, CONN. (April 6, 2016) – Distinguished artist Enrique Chagoya will deliver the Vincenza Uccello Fine Arts Lecture — “Cannibal Palimpsest/Palimpsesto Caníbal” — at the Art Museum, University of Saint Joseph on Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. The event, which will take place in the Hoffman Auditorium on the University's main campus at 1678 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, is free and open to the public.

Drawing upon his experiences living on both sides of the U.S./Mexico border, Mexican-born artist Enrique Chagoya creates work that challenges artistic and political preconceptions. His satirical scenes often feature characters from comics and animated cartoons in a critique of

colonialism and immigration practices in the United States. Juxtaposing references to popular culture with colonial-era illustrations and images from Mesoamerican art, he creates potent commentaries on politics, religion, and culture in contemporary life.

The title of his lecture, “Cannibal Palimpsest,” is identical to that of the recent European exhibition of his work. Chagoya is particularly well-known for his use of the codex format. These accordion-fold books read from left to right and are printed on the bark-based *amate* paper used in ancient Mesoamerican codices. Embodying what the artist terms “reverse anthropology,” they reimagine history, substituting an alternative narrative in which the dominant culture of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is Mesoamerican rather than Anglo-American. Chagoya’s codex, *Escape from Fantasylandia: An Illegal Alien’s Survival Guide* (2011), which was acquired by the Art Museum in 2012, will be on view in the museum from April 1 through June 5.

Enrique Chagoya currently teaches at Stanford University. After studying political economics at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México in the 1970s, he earned a BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute (1984), and an MA and MFA at the University of California, Berkeley (1987). In the 1990s he held residencies at Monet’s Giverny gardens and at the Cité International des Arts in France. A 25-year retrospective of his work, organized by the Des Moines Art Center (Iowa) in 2007, traveled to the Berkeley Art Museum and the Palm Springs Museum (California). His work was included in the 17th Sydney [Australia] Biennial of Contemporary Art (2010) and in the exhibitions *Drawing Mythologies in Modern Times* (MoMA) and *Re-Imagining Orozco* (The New School of Design/Parsons) in New York.

His work is found in many public collections including the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art (New York); the Des Moines Art Center (Iowa); the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, the Berkeley Art Museum, and the Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford University (California). He has been the recipient of numerous awards, among them two NEA artists’ fellowships; a Tiffany Fellowship; an award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters; and a President’s Award for Excellence from the San Francisco Art Institute.

The Vincenza Uccello Fine Arts Lecture at the Art Museum, USJ is funded by an endowment from Dr. Vincent J. and Gloria Marcello Turco ’45. This spring’s lecture is co-sponsored by USJ’s School of Humanities and Social Sciences through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. It is presented in conjunction with the Art Museum’s exhibition *Continuing the Conversation Part II: Points of Intersection between the Americas and Europe*, on view April 1 through June 5. In addition to its regular public open hours, the Museum will be open from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on April 20.

The Art Museum, USJ is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday: 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; Thursday: 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.; and Sunday: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.; closed Monday. Admission is free of charge. For more information, visit [www.usj.edu/artmuseum](http://www.usj.edu/artmuseum).

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