

# COMUNIDAD - HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH EXHIBITION

blue line arts

Grades  
7-12

## Tour Talk Create PRE-VISIT LESSON PLAN

### Exhibition Background

Blue Line Arts is featuring its first ever exhibition celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month! "The works selected for this exhibition were chosen for the various representations of the term *Comunidad*. Whether it's an exchange of skill, practice, education, or knowledge that has been passed down through communal engagements, these selected works display the interactions and knowledge which have developed our understanding of building community through the cultural practices of the Latinx/Hispanic community." Luis-Genaro Garcia, Assistant Prof of Art Ed, CSUS.

This lesson plan features the following California Arts Standards for Visual Arts for Grades 7-12: VA:Cn11.1.1a - How does art help us understand the lives of people of different times, places and cultures?



"The Awakening of Joaquin"  
Manuel Rios

### Touring the Gallery

You are welcome to visit Blue Line Arts Gallery, Tuesday through Saturday 11 – 5pm. Admission is free! Visiting an art gallery in person is an immersive experience that engages all the senses. Students will be able to respond to a variety of works and artistic perspectives guided through each of our five galleries by one of our Teaching Artists. Students can evaluate the works through guided questions: Why do artists follow or break from established traditions? How do artists determine what resources and criteria are needed in their artistic endeavors? Students will be encouraged to perceive, analyze and interpret artworks first hand before creating their own project.

### Talking + Connecting

A gallery can provoke thought and invite conversation with others about the art on display. During the *Comunidad* show, encourage discussion and brainstorming: How is art used to impact daily life? How do life experiences influence the way you relate to art? In order to help engage a students' background and to encourage exploration, they will be asked to relate their own knowledge to the works, as well as contextual information that brings deeper understanding to the art they see. How does reflecting on a work help us to fully experience it?

### Creating + Responding

Now it's your turn! Reflect on which artworks in the exhibition have inspired you. Using the Art Project Outline for *Comunidad*, you will be creating a self-portrait mixed media project inspired by the work of Rogene Manas. When you complete your project, invite others into a conversation about which *Milagros* you identify with, what you have created and why.

For more information or questions about your upcoming visit,  
please contact: [programs@bluelinearts.org](mailto:programs@bluelinearts.org)

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## Tour, Talk & Create

PRE-VISIT LESSON PLAN

### Vocabulary

### From the Show!

**Repetition:** works with pattern to make the work of art seem active. The repetition of elements of design creates unity within the work of art.

**Balance:** the distribution of the visual weight of objects, colors, texture and space. In symmetrical balance, the elements used on one side of the design are similar to those on the other side.

**Emphasis:** part of the design that catches the viewer's attention. Usually, the artist will make one area stand out by contrasting it with other areas. You will notice the emphasis in "In Need of a Miracle" is the torso of the form. Much of our attention is focused here.

**Symbolism:** the use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities. Symbols are something used for or regarded as representing something else.

**Principles of design:** the organization of works of art. They involve the ways in which the elements of art are arranged (pattern, contrast, dominance, emphasis, movement, repetition, balance, variation, unity).

**Milagros:** religious folk charms with healing purposes. Milagros literally means 'miracle' or 'surprise', and are often attached to altars, shrines, and sacred objects.

**Typical Milagros symbols :** hearts, eyes, body parts, praying figures, houses, and animals.



**Artist Name:** Rogene Manas  
**Title:** In Need of a Miracle  
**Materials:** Mixed Media

### Artist Statement:

"Bullets rain from the sky as she stands open to miracles. Her body is covered with milagros, religious folk charms traditionally used for healing purposes. Each milagro represents something in need of healing or something to cherish. We are so in need of miracles to save us from our own destruction." - Rogene Manas, Spanish-American artist who has travelled extensively to Mexico.

### Questions for Discussion

- Looking at "In Need of a Miracle", what symbol(s) do you notice either on the body shape or in the background? Which are interesting to you and why?
- How do you think these symbols might be important or helpful to the artist? How about to us, the viewer?