

Projects in Canada: Muralism: A Manifesto Of Painting

Note: This article describes a mural painted in Canada by a young Peruvian friend. While the mural was not a project sponsored by Heart-Links, the artist participated as a child in Heart-Links programs in the Zaña Valley and in 2010 he worked with the children of Aviación on a mural for their **Parque Mágico**.

On the evening of Friday January 7, 2011, several Heart-Links volunteers and board members were privileged to attend the unveiling of an important work of art at Kings University College in London, Ontario. The art presentation entitled "Muralism: Revolution and Evolution-The Creation and Evolution of Human Duality" explained the importance of muralism for the Latin American culture. Later, we were invited to view the very first mural painted in Canada by Yim Rodrigues Sampertegui the young man who worked with the children of the Aviación comedor to create the play space mural during the 2010 Work Awareness Trip (WAT).

At King's college in the Library, Yim's mural tells the story of Latin America and its evolution from pre-Hispanic time to modern day. As a young boy, Yim who is studying neurosurgery in Indiana, USA, participated in the Heart-Links programs in Zaña Valley. Prior to attending college, he was a political speaker in the US, sharing stories of South America's political and social hardships. Yim was invited to King's college by the group *Students United in Representation of Latin America (SUR LA)* at the suggestion of Ellie Cook, a 2010 WAT participant and student at King's college.

Yim began his talk by asking for a \$20 bill from one of the members of the audience. He wanted to point out the importance of art in our own country as on our \$20 bill there is printed phrase which reads "Could we ever know each other in the slightest without the arts!" Even though Yim has no formal art training, his mural, painted in an indigenous style of art using primarily lines and circles, is filled with symbolism and evokes both curiosity and wonder from its viewers.

During his presentation, Yim shared many interesting concepts. He explained that murals were first used in place of a writing system to tell stories of how people died, what they ate and what they wore, for example. Murals were used for teaching the people and as a way to not forget important aspects of their culture. Yim considers murals to be a manifesto of painting, that is, a public declaration of principles. He states that mural painting offers a new way of understanding the arts. While referring to muralism as academic art, Yim explains that the symbols and representations depicted in the murals tell a political and social story. He intends that his artwork will make the viewer think more critically. For example, he says "society has corrupted destruction" whereas "destruction is a natural process, as natural as creation. When we have creation and destruction there is equilibrium".

The mural at King's contains three elements: traditional, modern and futuristic. Yim explained that whenever three elements are used in a painting, the story signifies creation. The first principle is creation as suggested in the title of his mural *The Creation and Evolution of Human Duality*. He added that being an artist is being creator and just as creation evolves, art evolves. During his talk, Yim made this very profound statement in reference to being creator: "everything you make with your hands is forever in your heart".

Now that there is a little corner of Canada in Yim's heart, we welcome all to take some time to go to King's University college library and have a look at this special work, created by a very talented young man and friend of the Heart-Links community.

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