

So California **Live!**



**Seen at the Scene**

Joyce Clark, left, and Tori Busch at the Rick Rackers dance honoring new members.

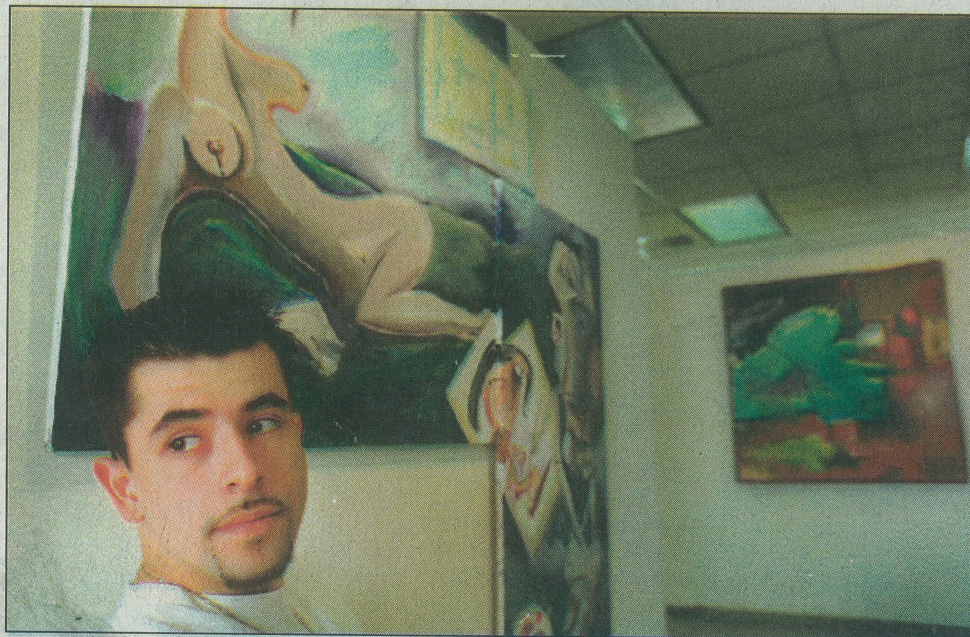
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# A brush with hip-hop

Young artist Jose Cisneros brings a special modern perspective to his paintings



"Hip-hop artist" Jose Cisneros with some of his work on exhibit in Norwalk's Mary Paxon Gallery.

Photos by Leo Hetzel/Press-Telegram

By Eric Estorga  
Staff writer

**W**hile most 20-year-olds are figuring out their niche in life, Jose Cisneros is painting it. His debut exhibit, "Tsunami - Numero Uno, a Chicano Artist Debut," infuses spirited emotion with hip-hop and expressionism.

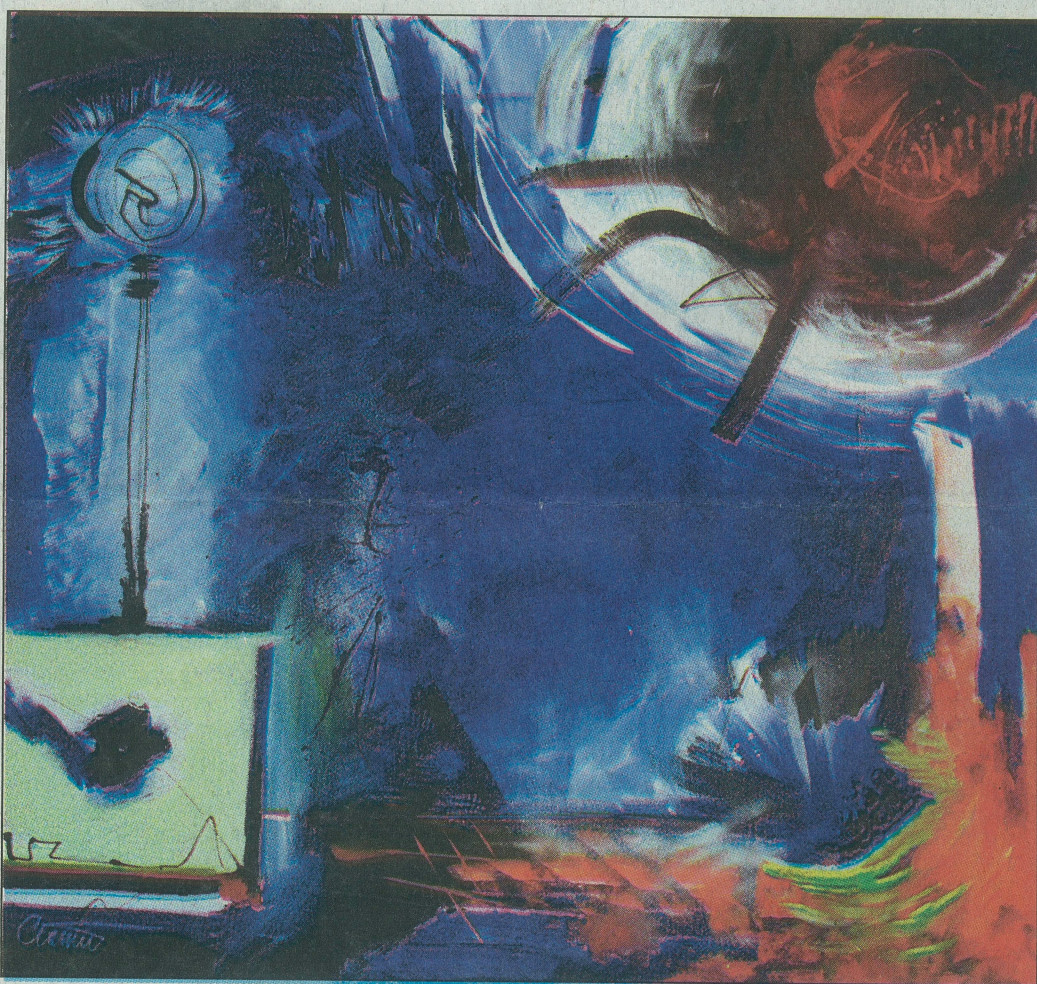
Viewers walking into the Mary Paxon Gallery in Norwalk will step into a dream sequence of Cisneros' mind, full of vibrant colors with an edge and intensity Cisneros says stems from his environment and culture.

Born in Los Angeles County and raised in Norwalk, Cisneros' soul and pathos emerged from the streets of the diverse community. His culture, he says, is hip-hop — a culture of unity, of the people of his generation and energy.

Cisneros blends the two worlds of hip-hop and expressionism furiously, with visions of spontaneity in a sophisticated raw style. His work is impulsive and a testament to the artist's surroundings and senses.

"Hip-hop projects a sensual and upbeat emotion that seems to attract all kinds of individuals," Cisneros said. "This explains its enormous growth in popularity and how its culture has expanded worldwide. Music and painting usually ignore literary ideas in order to be true to their nature and to achieve the direct expression of feeling."

"Hip-hop has become more than a music happening, it has blossomed into a worldwide culture of unity of all races and creeds," he added.



"Sol y Luna" — acrylic on canvas, by Jose Cisneros

Cisneros chose the title "Tsunami" for his exhibit because the force of nature symbolizes raw power, energy and even beauty — and that's what he expresses in his art, which he hopes viewers will feel, as well as see.

"When looking at an art piece, I believe viewers should take note of their own emotions before anything," Cisneros said. "A viewer has to be willing to be taken into the artist's visions. Then the viewer takes in mind that the artist is young, and that his work is proof of the emotional effects of his surroundings."

By the age of 16, Cisneros painted his first serious work, "The Window," expressing his con-

flicted feelings on canvas.

"My first painting was depressing, but I discovered something very important that day," he said. "I knew that I had found purpose and meaning to my life through the visual arts, and that I would paint till the day I die."

Trying to reach for some depth and understanding to his raw impulsiveness, he explored other artists' work. He studied Picasso and was moved by his brilliant "grotesque, yet real" distortions, designs and images. He was further

**ART EXHIBIT**

**What:** "Tsunami - Numero Uno, a Chicano Artist Debut," by Jose Cisneros.

**Where:** Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex, Mary Paxon Gallery at the Cultural Arts Center, 13000 Clarkdale Ave., Norwalk

**When:** 3-6 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; through June 25

**How much:** Free  
**Information:** (562) 929-5702