

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – January 28th, 2011

Information Contact:

Jessica Thomason
Development & Marketing Manager
The Art Center of Corpus Christi
Jessica@artcentercc.org
Phone: 884-6406 Cell: 510-6887
www.artcentercc.org

**Sue Sill's Watercolor Paintings "Celebrate the Americas" at
The Art Center of Corpus Christi February 3rd – 26th**

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — February 3rd – 26th The Art Center of Corpus Christi will showcase a colorful and culturally rich exhibition of paintings by artist and advocate for Mexican and Central American indigenous groups, Sue Sill. "Celebrating the Americas" depicts the beautiful and colorful cultures of Guatemala and Mexico, where the artist spends much of her time. Her exhibition shows the beauty, courage, resilience, and values of these peoples that are closely woven into our American culture.

Sill is a life-long artist who lived most of her life in Corpus Christi, Texas. She has worked in a variety of mediums and holds a Ph.D. in botany from Texas A&M University at College Station. At age 11, after moving to Pharr, Texas she developed a love affair with Mexico and Latin America, which significantly inspired her future works.

After a long career in public garden administration, Sill returned to painting and traveled to Guatemala to study painting botanicals in watercolor. Her encounters with the Guatemala Mayan and observations of their colorful textiles inspired her to share their beauty through her paintings.

Sill's current works seen in "Celebrating the Americas" began soon after a visit to Guatemala in 2009. The paintings are a tribute to the Mayan people who with dignity and grace, survived persecution by their government and a 36 year civil war. Sill not only depicts the beauty of the Mayan in vibrant colors, but also captures their spirit of strength, dignity, and strong family values, which has sustained them through poverty, discrimination, and even genocide.

The remainders of the exhibition are of the indigenous peoples of Mexico, taken from the area of Michoacan. Additional paintings are of people Sill encountered on a month-long road trip in July 2010, through Oaxaca and Chiapas.

Sill's detailed, watercolor paintings depict more than the mastery of her craft, but tell the story of a rich culture with artistic traditions that deeply influence our South Texas experience. "Celebrating the Americas" shows the humanity of neighboring indigenous cultures who have been marginalized in their own land. In this regard, Sill acts as an educator and advocate along as an experienced artist.

Related events include an opening reception will be held at the Art Center on Thursday, February 10th from 5 – 7 p.m. with free admission. Sill will also hold a watercolor portrait-painting workshop on March 12th at the Art Center. The cost of the workshop is \$60 with activities tailored towards advanced students and confident beginners. Pre registration is required by contacting Susie Shepherd at the Art Center, sshepherd@artcentercc.org, 884-6406. Sill's paintings will be on exhibition February 3 – 26th in the Lockett Gallery at the Art Center. Admission to the exhibition is free.

WHO: Sue Sill

WHAT: “Celebrating the Americas,” an exhibition of watercolor paintings

WHEN: February 3rd – 26th

WHERE: The Art Center of Corpus Christi located at 100 Shoreline Boulevard

About the Art Center of Corpus Christi The Art Center of Corpus Christi

(www.artcentercc.org (361-884-6406) was founded as a community art center and 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization in 1972. “The Center” provides an environment for creative expression with educational programs and exhibition of the arts. Its facilities include eleven art organizations, five gallery spaces, and studio space for art classes. The Art Center is located at 100 Shoreline Boulevard on Corpus Christi's historic bay front. Its facilities are available for weddings, receptions, and special events. The Art Center has free admission and is open to the public Tuesday through Sunday, 10 AM to 4 PM.

Image Captions:

- 1) Purepecha Herb Vendor, painting by Sue Sill
- 2) Chumula Woman, painting by Sue Sill