

American School Art Fest raises the bar

By Alex Gesheva

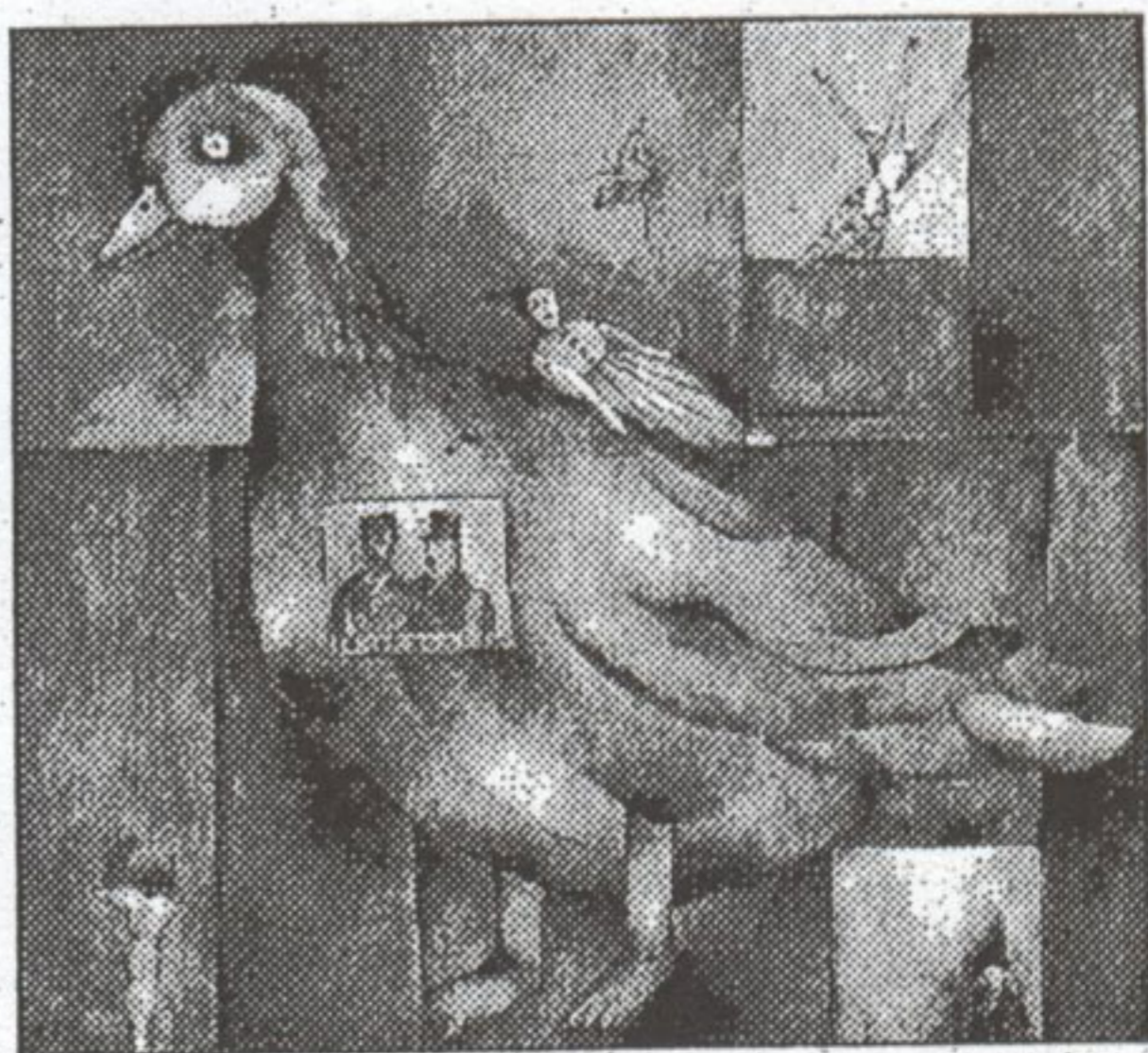
The American School Foundation presents ArtFest XVII, a celebration of arts that "allows youth to experience being painters, and painters to relive their youth."

On November 11 and 12, organizers invite art lovers around the city and beyond to join them for an art auction and fair that promise their highest standards to date.

ArtFest opens with an evening auction on Friday, November 11 at the school. Prospective buyers may view the artwork on auction from 7 p.m. as piano, flute and violin players provide soothing background sounds. Auctioneer Paco de la Pena sets the ball rolling at 8 p.m.

Prices vary — starting bids will range from 480 to 30,000 pesos for pieces by established artists such as Manuel Bautista, Lorenza Aranguren, Jaime Ponce and Georgina Arce, and also some lesser known names. Catalogues for the auction are available for 100 pesos at the American School office.

The fair takes place the following day, Saturday, November 12, from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the school grounds. All the artists involved in the auction will be showing and selling their work, and there will be a separate exhibition for student's work. The cuisine and entertainment will be varied, with paella, sushi, Mexican food, Italian offerings, and even Carl's Junior, as well as music by the stu-



This painting by Mona Orozco (its minimum reserve price is 950 pesos) is one of 44 to be auctioned on November 11 at the American School in Guadalajara. Less than half the artists who submitted work for this year's Artfest were accepted as participants in the auction and fair.

dent choir and two professional groups. The organizers also offer eight technique workshops for art students.

The current goal for ArtFest is to be self-sufficient and raise standards, says Rosa Maria Colin de Julian, the school's public relations director. "Previously, everyone could participate. Now, we have a committee who selected 44 out of the 100 artists who submitted work. It is a very special experience for the kids to be in such a professional environment."

Both the auction and the following day's fair will be held at the campus of the American School, Colomos 2100, Col. Providencia, in Guadalajara. Fair tickets are 20 pesos for pre-purchase, and 25 pesos on the day of the event, with all under 18 entering with no charge. For more information,