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COMMUNITY MURAL PROJECT TO COMMEMORATE  
THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL & ITS CONTINUING LEGACY  
*20<sup>th</sup> anniversary mural to be created at Studios on the Park*

Paso Robles, California — Over the next two weekends, STUDIOS ON THE PARK resident artist Henry A J Ramos will lead a community mural project commemorating the 20-year anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. While the 12-foot by 8-foot mural will echo the look and feel of the original wall, Ramos intends its imagery and messaging to relate to today's world. He wants the work to focus on "contemporary imperatives to conquer the many walls still in place that diminish democracy and the human condition worldwide." North county adults, teens, and children are encouraged to participate in two consecutive Saturday painting sessions (January 23 and 30) from 1 pm to 5 pm.

A resident of Creston, Ramos complements his contemporary paintings with occasional public art projects involving local youth and families. Last Spring, he and Flamson Middle School art teacher Jeanne Aird anchored the inaugural Paso Robles Festival of the Arts weekend by producing a 55 foot long mural entitled "Follow the River, Paint the Dream" that engaged over 250 local residents, many of them children.

The upcoming project that Ramos is organizing will involve, among others, Flamson Middle School and Paso Robles High School art students who have expressed interest in participating.

Ramos' inspiration for his latest mural project comes from his travels to Germany with his wife, a German citizen, in the late 1980s. Learning firsthand of the profound changes that were taking shape at the time, and observing the Wall with its incredible hieroglyphs, chock full of color and political commentary, combining art and statements about democracy, changed his life. As Ramos explains it, "[the graffiti at the Berlin Wall] made me dream of the possibility that I might one day find a way to match my passion for art with my deep commitment to

progressive social change.”

Through the interactive creation of the mural, Ramos hopes participants will have the opportunity to “reflect on the value of democracy while identifying constructive ways to work together in society to overcome contemporary challenges to democratic life, both in this country and abroad.” He believes this is especially important for young people born after the Wall fell. Learning about its history while expressing what democracy means will be an interesting, educational, and engaging experience. And one, Ramos hopes, will help them to “understand what it means to benefit from living in a democracy and to see the new and different roles they can play in the democratic process to make their community stronger and better.”

While the ultimate showing home of the completed mural is still unknown, Ramos hopes it will be at an appropriate local institution, such as the Paso Robles Library or City Hall.

Mr. Ramos would like to involve as much of the community as possible in this work. If you are interested, please stop by STUDIOS ON THE PARK, located at 1130 Pine Street in historic downtown Paso Robles, on either January 23 or January 30. For more information, visit [www.studiosonthepark.org](http://www.studiosonthepark.org) or call 805-238-9800.