

# NEWS

The Evergreen State College  
Olympia, Washington 98505

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for further information  
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Native American stories of weather and its effect on mankind are the topic for an exhibition of 41 sandpaintings which open at The Evergreen State College Library Art Gallery January 19.

Entitled "Rainbirds, Thunderbirds and Flying Serpents", the show is the work of Mexican Indian Artist David Villasenor, who has perfected a technique for making permanent "tapestries in sand" using the folk art of sandpointing, a very old Southwest art in which tribal medicine men "painted" loosely upon the ground by letting sands flow with control through their fingers. Due to the sacred nature of the ceremonies, the sand paintings were begun, finished, used and destroyed within 12-hour periods and therefore were virtually unknown except in the Southwest.

Villasenor, a native of Guadalajara who spent his early adulthood on Southwest Indian reservations, depicts authentic designs without revealing ritual secrets. He brings to the viewer an understanding for the beauty of design and color of this expressive art by using only natural sands and minerals to create his sandpaintings.

His exhibition represents a collection of original research on the primitive symbolic characters from North, Central and South American Indian mythology. His Rainbirds are primarily symbols from the pueblos of Arizona and New Mexico; Thunderbirds are from Navajo, Plains Indian and Eskimo tribes, and the Flying Serpents are derived from Mayan and Aztec cultures. The images are completed in sand done on flexible canvas backings.

The sand tapestries, which have been displayed and demonstrated throughout the United States, will remain on display in the Evergreen Gallery through February 12. Admission is free.

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Dick Nichols, Director  
Information Services