



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT:

Clark Baughan: Visual Arts Gallery Director

(505) 428-1501

[cbaughan@sfccnm.edu](mailto:cbaughan@sfccnm.edu)

Todd Eric Lovato: Marketing and Public Relations

(505) 428-1216

[todd.lovato@sfccnm.edu](mailto:todd.lovato@sfccnm.edu)

**SFCC Visual Arts Gallery Photography Exhibition**

**“Ruta Sinuosa” – Photographs of Copper Canyon, Mexico by Ricardo Martínez  
Sept. 3 to 30, 2009**

*Artist is available for interviews. High resolution images available.*

**Santa Fe, NM, August 17, 2009** — Santa Fe Community College’s [Visual Arts Gallery](#) presents “Ruta Sinuosa,” an exhibition of photography by Ricardo Martínez. The exhibition is a series of more than 30 black and white photographs documenting the lives of the Tarahumara people, the indigenous inhabitants of Copper Canyon, a region in Chihuahua, Mexico noted for both its beauty and poverty. The exhibition, curated by Valerie Verzuh of the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture in Santa Fe, runs through Sept. 30. An opening reception takes place 5 to 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 3, in the Visual Arts Gallery, 6401 Richards Ave, Santa Fe.

Martínez’ photographs have been exhibited in Europe, Mexico, Central America and the United States. He has won numerous awards including a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in Mexico (FONCA). His photographic work is represented in numerous publications including “160 Years of Mexican Photography” published by the National Council for the Arts in Mexico (CONACULTA) and *Smithsonian* magazine.

*-continued-*

## **p.2 Martínez**

Born in Mexico City, photographer Ricardo Martínez has exhibited internationally and his work is featured in numerous publications and collections. He received his education in Communication Sciences from Universidad del Nuevo Mundo in Mexico City. He currently resides in Santa Fe, New Mexico. A childhood fascination with Mexico's indigenous cultures led him to find a medium through which he could relate to their “impressive reality and to understand, and live among them.” As a documentary photographer he traveled to Copper Canyon to investigate reports of extremely high child mortality rates among the Tarahumara. Attributed by official reports to nearly nine years of severe drought, Martínez's photographs record far more complex social, ethnic, and economic realities.

The Sierra Madre region of Chihuahua, Mexico, is the traditional homeland of the Tarahumara, or Raramuri as they refer to themselves. The original inhabitants of the modern Mexican state of Chihuahua, they retreated to the barren wilderness of Sierra Occidental on the arrival of the Spanish in the 1600s. Today this area is famous as Copper Canyon and attracts thousands of tourists every year.

From a cabin situated between the railroad town of Creel and the Indian common lands, Martinez traveled outward to document the three distinct ethnic groups at the center of this exhibition: the Tarahumara, the Mestizos, and the Outsiders. The Tarahumara today number more than 60,000. For centuries they have lived lives shaped by the economic necessities of their land. This traditional way of life is documented by Martínez as coming under increasingly severe pressures from contemporary society, including mining, timbering and the drug trade

The years Martínez spent in Copper Canyon are not moments taken from his life to finish a project, but a time, place, and people that became his life. Because of this, Ricardo Martínez has created a body of work that takes us on an insightful and personal photographic journey.

*-continued-*

### **p.3 Martínez**

#### **About Santa Fe Community College**

Santa Fe Community College serves more than 14,500 students per year in its credit, noncredit and adult basic education programs. The 20-year-old college offers academic, career and personal-enrichment programs and services to meet the needs of business, government and the region's diverse population. The college contributes to the area's economic, technological and cultural development by offering programs ranging from art to business management and directly addresses regional job shortages through its nursing, teacher education and culinary arts programs. For further information, visit [www.sfcnm.edu](http://www.sfcnm.edu) or call (505) 428-1000.

###