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### By Irene Diaz-Bazan

Incas, Mayan, Aztecs and Muiscas are the personages who have been perpetuated in a mural of great proportions in the entrance of the Shady Valley Park of the locality of Buckhead.

The creator of the work "Deep Roots", Colombian painter and sculptor, Gus Ocamposilva shows in it, the imposing artistic work that has a multi cultural character, in which, macaw, Maya figures Incas, pyramids and other details of the flora and fauna of Latin America welcome the sportsmen and whole families who meet in Shady Valley Park, Atlanta GA.

# **BREAKING MYTHS**

For the first time in the cultural history of the state of Georgia, a Latin American artist was chosen officially by the city of Atlanta through Bureau of Cultural Affairs for the accomplishment of a mural of 8 xs 40 feet, whose thematic is the face of the Latin American multi cultural roots.

Ocamposilva, who through his work made a tribute to the Earth of the immigrant, is a permanent student of the cultures of Latin America and emphasizes the wealth of his manifestations.

Ever since he began to develop the idea, his goal was to teach the children of Latin origin - resident in the United States, where they were coming from and tried to build in them, a true identity with their origins.

"The message of this mural, is to represent our myths, legend, magic and color. All the wonderful pre-Colombian culture Inca (Peru), Mayas and Aztec (Mexico) and Muisca (Colombia) and of all the towns that they



preceded to us with his wisdom", stood out.

### THE PROJECT

The project is called "Summer Murals" and is coordinated by Dorian MacDoffie of the office of Cultural Affairs and the Atlanta City Hall.

In the project one integrated to 18 children and smaller adolescents of 17 years pertaining to the Boys & Girls Club of Brookhaven, under the consultant's office of Iris Santiago.

Ocamposilva mentions that in the beginning the task was difficult, because the children did not know the subject.

In agreement with Ocamposilva, they stood out by his artistic capacity; Yesenia Agueta (Guatemala), David Ramirez (Mexico), Edwin Sarabia (Honduras), Cristian Arguello (Ecuador); of which, after many hours of training.

"In spite of their problems of familiar order, the internal conflicts and overcoming the fear, the children were able to express themself artistically", expressed.

Ocamposilva thinks that through the mural "Deep Roots" have arrived the moment for sharing all the multi cultural wealth with the community and for making prevail the presence by the Latin roots in the city.

At the beginning the proposal to place the mural in the entrance of the Shady Valley Park was rejected, because the mural was going to be painted by a Latin artist and with a symbolism of its culture was not accepted. After insisting, Ocamposilva obtained the permission.

"As Colombian artist I feel that the importance of the mural goes beyond the same work; because through art, it is the only way, the only universal language where we Latin Americans will find common elements to really become a single nation", emphasized.

## The painting of the mural "Deep Roots" is divided in the following parts:

#### The nature.

Where multicolor emphasizes a great macaw from which, it comes off all the fauna and flora of the Andes. The tropic is represented with the presence of rivers and snow-covered mountains.

## The pyramid.

Located in center, it symbolizes the balance and the harmony between the man and the nature.

# The sun and the moon.

That in the antiquity in the culture Inca they were two of the most important Gods. Around they are appraised manifold mythologies drawings related to magic and power.

# Totem.

Painted to the right end. The figure of the Totem; they represent the human presence and the perfection of the same one.

#### **ADDRESS:**

Shady Valley Park 2720 Shady Valley Dr N.E., Buckhead (near Lenox Rd.)