



A model poses with her photograph at the inauguration of the exhibition.

**I think people really go through something when they pose for me, even the hippest of hip people who think they won't experience anything.**

SPENCER TUNICK  
Artist

Tunick points to a photograph.

"There was a painting with horns with a man holding horns in a tribal dance, and so I used horns here."

A man with deer's antlers on his head is poised, mid-run, in the middle of a deserted street.

"A lot of the works were in barrios and on streets with certainly a Mexican feel," he said.

"I like that the people here are born with art in their blood and they live around and with art in their homes. Art is everywhere; it's part of the dialogue of everyday life."

**EXCHANGING GIFTS**

Participating in contemporary art to the extent of publicly taking off their clothes, does not come quite so easily to most people.

His models' reactions to what they are doing are of particular importance to him.

"I think people really go through something when they pose for me, even the hippest



"Red," taken in front of the Monumento a la Revolución

**MORE INFO**

**Centro Cultural Universitario Tlatelolco** is currently closed for health reasons. "Citadinos" will run until Sept. 6. The Centro Cultural Universitario Tlatelolco is located at Av. Ricardo Flores Magón 1, Col. Nonalco-Tlatelolco. Tel.: 5583-0960, 5583-0961, 5583-0983

of hip people who think they won't experience anything," he said.

"It might seem so easy and blasé in your head but once you actually do it, out in a public space, it transcends a lot of your preconceptions."

In return for posing for him, Tunick gives every model – that's nearly 100,000 people – a free print. He says his gallery would prefer he weren't so generous, but he sees the exchange as artists trading work.

"They're giving me a gift and I'm giving them a gift. I think it's the greatest thing you can do."

Does Tunick ever get tired of working with nude models in public places? He says he's perfectly happy.

"If you said to me, 'I'm going to pose for you, Spencer. Let's do that tomorrow,' do you think I'd be bored with you? ... I'm not bored. It's always exciting working with people. It's great."

# New book explores drug war violence

NOTIMEX/WIRE REPORTS

A Mexico City cultural critic who wrote an acclaimed non-fiction book about the femicide phenomenon on the border presented his latest work Monday in Barcelona.

His subject matter remains pitch black.

This time, journalist Sergio González Rodríguez has written a book about the decapitations that became widespread in the nation's drug war in 2008.

His new work, titled "El hombre sin cabeza" ("The Headless Man"), focuses on the theme of violence in general as well as the degradation that an entire society suffers because of the brutality of drug trafficking.

In an interview, González Rodríguez said in the new book he was interested in exploring the cultural aspect of the violence transpiring in places from Chihuahua to the State of Mexico, the political reverberations that come from it and the ideology behind it.

"It seemed important to explain it on three levels: a factual reporting on the crimes, an essay-like analysis of the cultural and political precedents that lead perpetrators to these means, such as decapitation, and the stance of the people writing about it, who change what they are writing about by reporting on these cases of violence," González Rodríguez said.

"I wanted to put myself in

## El hombre sin cabeza

By Sergio González Rodríguez  
Published by Anagrama,  
March 2009  
192 pages



### DID YOU KNOW?

González Rodríguez's "Huesos en el desierto" ("Bones in the Desert"), his book on the collusion of many different parties in the murders of thousands of women in Ciudad Juárez, was used as a factual template for Roberto Bolaño's "2666."

the role of a spectator who is subject to these types of expressions that are now spread about by media with wide reach, such as the Internet," he said.

"The intention was to approximate these phenomena from multiple perspectives, changing opinions, with a type of writing where the personal voice takes readers by the hand."

González Rodríguez presents what he calls "staggering" numbers of the drug war's toll in 2008: 5,200 executed, an average of 17 kidnappings per day, 312 immigrants with messages left on their bodies and at

least 170 decapitated.

The text also examines the phenomena of witchcraft and human sacrifice that has been connected to drug traffickers and the use of victims' bodies as canvases for threats and taunts. He also presents the testimony of a hit man who has cut off some people's heads.

"Decapitation seems to be a theme that one has to take very seriously, and that's how they mean it to be taken," González Rodríguez said.

More than bloody front pages and the sensationalistic, shoddy journalism that decapitations produce – as well as the fear such images create among the general public – González Rodríguez believes they mean much more: something greater at work in the society at large.

He links the current decapitations to three events in Mexico's history: human craniums that once adorned Aztec palisades, the severed head of cleric Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla displayed by the Spanish, and the disappeared head of Pancho Villa, which was stolen from his tomb.

## UNAM alums help immigrants

NOTIMEX

CHICAGO - The UNAM Alumni Association's Chicago chapter has signed on to a program that will assist capitalinos who have migrated to the midwestern U.S. city.

The Casa de la Ciudad de México announced a partnership with Chicago residents and former students from National Autonomous University of Mexico, or UNAM, to assist D.F. immigrants with free legal advice on immigration. Casa de La Ciudad de México director Nancy Oviedo said this was the first step in a program she hopes to grow.

Chicago is home to the

second-largest population of Mexicans who have migrated to the United States. Los Angeles is first.

"We're beginning with this program that is designed to give attention to people every 15 days," Oviedo said. Four UNAM-trained lawyers will assist in the project's initial stages.

Juan Carlos Cisneros, the president of the UNAM Alumni Association, said that in the future the program hopes to offer a variety of services to benefit immigrants who have come from Mexico City.

"We are planning on creating workshops, round table and conferences regarding the

immigration phenomenon, as well as investigations and studies focused on the problems that stem from that phenomenon," Cisneros said.

As might be expected, the UNAM Alumni Association includes graduates from many different schools of Mexico's largest university. Students studying at UNAM's Chicago campus may be able to participate in the program at some point in the future.

Currently, the Casa de la Ciudad de México is working toward creating an instructional center in the South Side neighborhood of Little Village, or La Villata, which is home to a large Latino population.