



# SAINT JOSEPH COLLEGE

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CONNECTICUT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – December 9, 2011**

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Emilio Sanchez. *Untitled (Moroccan Abstraction)*. Colored pencil, 22 x 30 inches. Gift of the Emilio Sanchez Foundation, 2011.

## ***Color and Contrast: Recent Gifts from the Emilio Sanchez Foundation* opens January 13, 2012 at Saint Joseph College Art Gallery**

WEST HARTFORD, CONN. – *Color and Contrast* will be on view at the Saint Joseph College Art Gallery from Friday, January 13, through Sunday, March 11. **A Gallery Talk and Reception** will take place at the Art Gallery on **Thursday, February 16, at 5:00 p.m.**

This exhibition presents 17 works of art created by Emilio Sanchez (died 1999), a Cuban-born American artist who won acclaim for his strikingly abstract paintings of architecture and landscape. Born in Camagüey, Cuba in 1921, Sanchez studied at the Art Students League in New York after moving to that city in 1944. Although he lived in New York for the rest of his life, his work continued to be inspired by the strong light and vibrant colors characteristic of his homeland. His well-known paintings of architectural themes focus on simplified forms rendered even more abstract by the play of light and shadow. Traveling to countries around the Mediterranean in the 1970s and 80s, he found inspiration in the stark white vernacular buildings of Morocco. He was also fascinated by the forms of New York skyscrapers seen against colorful dawn or sunset skies. Emilio Sanchez was the recipient of prestigious awards, including

first prize at the 1974 Biennial in San Juan, Puerto Rico. His work is represented in many major museums, including New York's Museum of Modern Art and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Works of art in *Color and Contrast* represent a variety of media, from oil paintings to watercolors, colored pencil, and ink drawings as well as prints in color and black and white. Among this selection are views of New York skyscrapers, Mediterranean streetscapes, Moroccan storefronts, Caribbean houses, and sunset views over the Hudson River. Many of them embody the artist's attraction to the natural patterns created by brilliant sunlight on the bright colors or stark white volumes of Caribbean or Mediterranean architecture. Others reflect his ongoing investigation of dramatic skiescapes and cloud formations.

The paintings and works on paper in this exhibition are the recent gift of the Emilio Sanchez Foundation, which was established by stipulation of the artist's will to preserve and promote his art and help fund ophthalmologic research and art scholarships.

The Saint Joseph College Art Gallery is located in The Bruyette Athenaeum on the College's West Hartford campus at 1678 Asylum Avenue. The Saint Joseph College Art Gallery presents regular exhibitions drawn from its permanent collection as well as loan exhibitions of historic art or of contemporary work by artists of national and international prominence.

**The Saint Joseph College Art Gallery is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; Thursday: 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.; and Sunday: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.; closed Monday. Admission is free of charge. For more information call 860.231.5399 or email [artgallery@sjc.edu](mailto:artgallery@sjc.edu).**

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*Saint Joseph College, founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy to provide higher education opportunities for women, is a comprehensive institution serving women from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. More than 22 majors and six pre-professional programs are available plus accelerated bachelor's to master's degrees. Responsive to the evolving educational needs of the community, the School of Graduate and Professional Studies offers both women and men graduate degree programs including: management, counseling, education, and nursing along with online programs in biology, biochemistry and nutrition. In addition, the undergraduate Weekend Program for Adult Learners, professional certificate programs relevant to today's workforce and other continuing co-educational learning opportunities are available. In the fall of 2011, the Saint Joseph College School of Pharmacy, the first doctoral program in the College's 79-year history, welcomed its first class to Hartford 21 on Trumbull Street in downtown Hartford. View our Web site at [www.sjc.edu](http://www.sjc.edu).*

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