

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mattatuck Museum Art and History Live in Waterbury

144 West Main St. Waterbury, CT 06702
Tues. – Sat. 10 – 5, Sun. Noon – 5
www.MattatuckMuseum.org

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Flamenco Guitarist Val Ramos at Mattatuck Museum

Waterbury, CT ... The Mattatuck Museum Arts & History Center celebrates F. Luis Mora's Spanish heritage, from which he drew much inspiration, with a concert by renowned Flamenco guitarist Val Ramos on Friday, January 22nd from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. Enjoy this matchless musical style as Mr. Ramos performs a recital and then provides background music for the reception that follows – a perfect way to enjoy the magnificent art in the *F. Luis Mora and the Expression of Beauty* exhibition. Admission is \$5 for museum members and \$7 for non-members.

Considered to be one of the best Flamenco guitarists in the United States, Connecticut resident Val Ramos is a first generation native New Yorker of Puerto Rican descent. He started playing Flamenco at age 14, studying with the Spanish Flamenco master Adonis Puerta. Mr. Ramos graduated from the Ezra Stiles College at Yale University, and made his profession debut on the Disney Channel in 1985. Since then the Val Ramos Flamenco Ensemble has released 3 albums. Mr. Ramos was the first non-Spanish guitarist to perform at the King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center, and continues to perform in major international music festivals.

Flamenco is a style of music considered part of the Spanish culture but is actually native only to the Andalusia region, being the music of the Andalusian gypsies and played in their social community. During the Golden Age of Flamenco (1869 – 1910), a time when Mora's artistic reputation was growing, Flamenco was performed frequently in cafés and its dancers became a public attraction. Increasingly guitarists accompanying the dancers gained independent recognition and the art of Flamenco guitar was born.

F. Luis Mora was a master painter with exceptional talent who made his home in Gaylordsville, Connecticut. Born in Uruguay he immigrated to the United States in 1880 when he was 6 years old. Extended trips to Spain had a deep effect on Mora's art, furthering his career and solidifying his reputation as a Hispanic-American artist whose evocative works combine an intense awareness of his Spanish roots with a warm appreciation of urban and country life in the United States. His ability to depict the inner beauty, qualities and personality of his subjects, whether in portraits, landscapes or scenes of everyday life, made him a celebrated artist in the first half of the 20th century.

Located at 144 West Main Street, Waterbury, the museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Convenient, free parking is located directly behind the museum on Park Place. The Mattatuck Museum Arts & History Center is operated with support from the Connecticut Commission on Cultural & Tourism, and is a member of the Connecticut Art Trail, fifteen world-class museums and historic sites (www.arttrail.org). For more information about *The Art of Flamenco Guitar: A Recital and Reception with Val Ramos* the museum's collections, and other programs, please call 203-753-0381 ext 10 or visit the website at www.MattatuckMuseum.org.

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