



Dear Friends of Alegria,

Recently the Alegria Center for the Arts had a very special exposition of photography at the Galeria Nacional in San Jose. The emphasis was on photography of the Humid Costa Rican landscape, a sometimes overlooked view of our country. It was attended primarily by artists and patrons of the arts in Costa Rica, and gave all a taste of our artistic goals with our project in Guanacaste.

My vision is to let the people know that one of our greatest desires for the presence of Alegria is to allow the world to know Costa Rica through the arts. Our ultimate goal is to draw together the residents and visitors here with the people and places of our great country, with our native art community, and with the future development of all arts in Costa Rica. We want there to be a clear understanding that Costa Rica isn't just about sun, sea, and oxcarts, but a montage of varied landscapes.

From the Caribbean to the Pacific, Costa Rica has not only dense rainforests, palm tree-lined beaches, warm weather and comfortable waters, but an incredible variety of habitats and microclimates with cloud forests inland and dry tropical forests to the north. Our recent exhibition was to show through the art of photography the "humid" areas of the country. There will be a continuation of other areas in the future, and other exhibits of art in many forms.

The arts of Costa Rica are just as varied as the landscapes, with such neoclassical painters as Teodoro Quiros, Rafael Fernandez, and Rodolfo Stanley. From the ceramics of Cecilia Figueres, to the high-end indigenous works of the Boruca and Huetar people, there is a rich varied art culture here. From 500 BC, there has been evidence found of highly developed artisans in the country, and it is our desire to continue to do our part to not only promote the growth of art, but help to network the artists of today.

We would also aspire to make local artists a part of our community through their art, and promote them to be able to have a better life, learn, and gain notoriety in their field of expertise. We welcome all to be a part of our ongoing desire to preserve our nature and culture through the arts.

With all best regards,



Roberto Facio