

Hapeville comes alive when 'Gallo Pinto' opens with a range of events celebrating cultural creativity

Latin sizzle

By CATHERINE FOX / cfox@ajc.com



RICE AND BEANS is to Latin America what pasta is to Italy, and it exists in just as many variations. The city of Hapeville is serving up a generous helping of the basic carb Costa Rican-style in "Gallo Pinto," a series of events coordinated by a new Atlanta-based venture called ARTS W/OUT BORDERS (AW/OB).

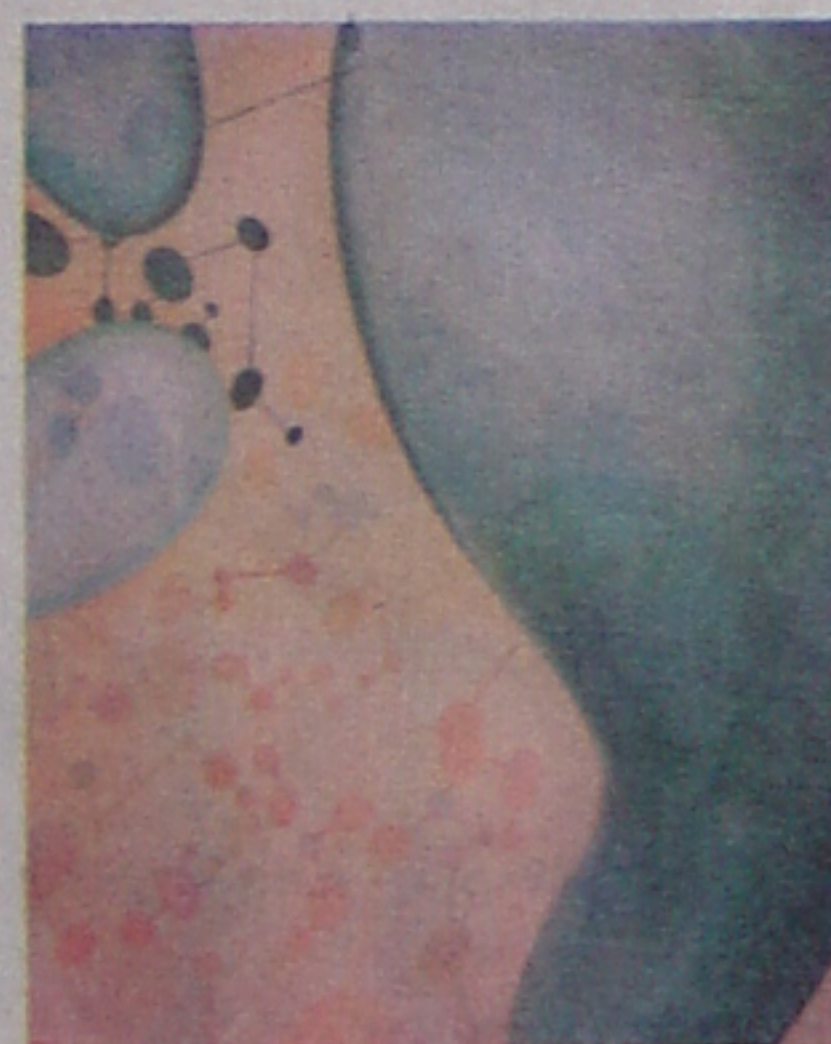
The organization, founded to foster business and economic development opportunities through cultural exchange, will operate a gallery in downtown Hapeville, which opens Friday night with a street party and exhibition of six contemporary Costa Rican artists.

The artists' styles and subjects are as diverse as their backgrounds. Ranging from self-taught to highly sophisticated artists, some trained abroad and some ex-pats, they mirror trends in contemporary art, but — like

Costa Rica's gallo pinto — they season it in their own way.

You can check out their artwork and take in music, food and general revelry. AW/OB president Dimitrios Hondroulis plans to tour the exhibit in the United States before its February 2006 showing at the Costa Rican Contemporary Museum of Art and Design in San Jose.

► **THE 411:** "Downtown Live." Free. 6:30–11 p.m. Friday. Exhibition through June 12. AW/OB Gallery, 625 and 627 N. Central Ave., Hapeville. 404-962-4401. www.artswithoutborders.net.



"Globo-cortina" by Emilia Villegas (left), "Cabeza de hombre" by Adrian Arguedas (far left), and Joaquin Rodriguez del Paso's "Bananas Is My Business" (above) are part of the works on display during the fest at the AW/OB Gallery.