

## San Bernardino Public Library's Villasenor Branch Library Presents

### VITAL SIGNS

California State University professors Juan Delgado and Thomas McGovern will be presenting their new book, *Vital Signs*; which is a pairing of Mr. Delgado's poetry and Mr. McGovern's photographs of hand painted signs and murals in a testament to the uniqueness found in the Inland Empire.

Since 2006, Thomas McGovern has been photographing hand-made signs and murals throughout the Inland Empire. Juan Delgado has lived a major part of his life in San Bernardino, writing about the region for decades. In their art they both share a passion for San Bernardino and its surrounding communities. When people study McGovern's images and read Delgado's words, they witness the unique aspects of this area, an area whose history, culture, vitality, and even notoriety have been largely overshadowed by Los Angeles.

Their artwork is centered on geographical markers that charter and map rich barrios and communities and essential cultural markers that define the character of a street. Both artists use their media to celebrate the diverse working class communities and their varied stories. The book project is about murals and signs people live by; both of these artists are interested in preserving the narrative and visual culture of this area, which is under threat by urban renewal and development.

The book centers around the lives and aspirations of the people of these unique streets; streets that bring the Mexican, Anglo and other cultures together; streets whose backdrops are brilliant skies; streets that pulsate with daily rituals; streets lined with stucco walls; and streets that are rapidly changing. The book is trying to capture their stories and visual cultures before they are lost.

This free program includes a PowerPoint presentation and will begin at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, November 16, 2013 at the Norman F. Feldheim Central Library, 555 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, San Bernardino. Books will be available for purchase and signing following the presentation. Contact Linda Adams Yeh at 909.381.8238 or visit [www.sbpl.org](http://www.sbpl.org) for more information.

### Author Biographies

**Juan Delgado** has published two chapbooks, *Working on It*, and *A Change of Worlds*, which received first place in the Embers Press Poetry Contest. His collections of poetry include *El Campo*, the Contemporary Poetry Series Award winning *Green Web* (University of Georgia Press), and *A Rush of Hands*, now in its third printing with the University of Arizona Press. He holds an M.F.A. from the University of California at Irvine where he was also a Regent's Fellow.

**Thomas McGovern** has been making photographs since 1977. His artwork has been in over 25 solo and more than 35 group exhibitions and he is the author of *Bearing Witness (to AIDS)* (Visual AIDS/A.R.T.

Press, 1999); *Alpha Teaching Yourself Black and White Photography in 24 Hours* (Pearson, 2002); *Amazing Grace* (Parker, 2010) and *Hard Boys + Bad Girls* (Schiffer, 2010). His photographs are in many public and private collections including the Brooklyn Museum of Art; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture; Museum of the City of New York and the Griffin Museum of Photography, among others. He recently founded DOT/dotphotozine.com and is a professor of art at California State University, San Bernardino.