

**+FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WHAT:**

**“Los Cuatro Ases” (The 4 Aces)**  
Sculpture and Paintings by Four Local Latino Artists

**WHEN:**

**April 7–May 12, 2012**  
**Opening event: Saturday, April 7, 7-10 pm**  
**Salon Artisimo/Artists Dialogue: Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7PM**

**WHERE:**

**Franconia in the City @ Casket**  
Gallery and Education Space  
1781 Jefferson Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418

**CONTACT**

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[www.grupossoap.com](http://www.grupossoap.com)

[www.franconia.org](http://www.franconia.org)

**Franconia in the City @ Casket and**  
**Grupo Soap del Corazón present**

## **Los Cuatro Ases**

### **Sculpture and Paintings by Four Local Latino Artists**

On April 7, 2012, Latino visual arts group Grupo Soap del Corazón will open the 12<sup>th</sup> year of its exhibitions with a show at the new Franconia in the City @ Casket Gallery in Northeast Minneapolis. “Los Cuatro Ases” (The Four Aces) will feature two- and three-dimensional art by four well known international artists: Alonso Sierralta (Chile), Peter Martín Morales (Guatemala), Douglas Padilla (Minnesota), and Xavier Tavera (Mexico). For the show Padilla, who is primarily a painter, and Tavera, who is primarily a photographer, will join Morales and Sierralta, both primarily sculptors, in creating two- and three-dimensional art.

The exhibit's opening celebration will be held on April 7 from 7-10 pm, and the exhibition will run through May 12, 2012. The Casket Gallery will be open Saturdays from 12-5 pm and by appointment. On Thursday, May 3, at 7 pm, Franconia will host its first 3-D Symposium in its new gallery space in the Casket Arts Complex, featuring an artists' dialogue in conjunction with Padilla's ongoing Salon Artisimo series.

The artists:

Peter Martín Morales is a visual linguist whose work is a result of what might be called an archeology of the imagination. As an artist he attempts to dig layer by layer into the recesses of memory. What emerges are representations of whatever he imagines he has imagined.

Douglas Padilla is a painter primarily involved with color, symbol, ritual, and story—often with a 3-D edge. When he turns to true sculpture, he concerns himself, most often, with a place where aesthetic paradigm and spiritual discipline can meet.

Alonso Sierralta's work explores the visual relationship created by combining natural and manufactured elements. This combination is intended to appear grafted and somewhat uncomfortable. This tension and the forms he utilizes reference ideas of transplantation and migration.

Xavier Tavera focuses his photography on the lives of marginalized immigrants. His images offer insight into the diversity of alienated communities and give voice to those who are often invisible.

Grupo Soap del Corazón was founded in 2000 by Xavier Tavera and Douglas Padilla to celebrate Latino artists and culture and the Latinization of Lake Street in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In its 12-year existence, Grupo Soap del Corazón has stayed true to its purpose: to encourage and exhibit "Soap del Corazón", art that cleans the heart. Neither a non-profit nor a for-profit organization, Grupo Soap has stayed street level and showcased the work of 50+ artists in venues as diverse as the walls of the old Sears building in Minneapolis, an old prison converted to cultural center in Valparaiso, Chile, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Highpoint Center for Printmaking, an armory in Northfield, and facebook.com. Grupo Soap has, in its ranks, award-winning artists such as Mexican photographer Xavier Tavera, Chilean painter Amaru (Marcela Rodriguez Aguilar), Argentinean installationist Gabriela Bertiller, Texan tattoo artist/painter Claudia "Billy" Baca, Mexican graphic designer/conceptualist Luis Fitch, and local Mexican-American painter/arts activist Douglas Padilla. Well over 100,000 people have viewed Grupo Soap's art in person, another 100,000 have seen its work on the web. The work has gathered the people of Minneapolis-St. Paul, and of greater Minnesota, into deeper community with each other and with the world.

Franconia Sculpture Park is the Midwest's premier outdoor sculpture park, offering a unique combination of residence, work and exhibition space for emerging and established artists from around the country and beyond. Its mission is: *To foster an inspiring environment for artists to expand their skills and promote the public education of three-dimensional art.* In 2011, Franconia expanded to its satellite site in Northeast Minneapolis, Franconia in the City @ Casket. Each year, thousands of community members participate in Franconia's arts education programs led by staff, resident and volunteer artists. These educational programs provide social context to the artwork and make contemporary art accessible.

Franconia Sculpture Park is free and open to the public 365 days a year, dawn to dusk. Franconia has a lively schedule of programs and events for art lovers of all ages including the 3D Concert Series, Kids Make Sculpture Workshops, Community Collaboration Hot Metal Pour, artist-led tours, annual fall Art & Artists Celebration, and specific programs for at-risk youth. Franconia Sculpture Park is located 45 minutes northeast of the Twin Cities in Chisago County, near Taylors Falls, Minnesota.