

✓ *Register* *7/2/92* *5-1992*

No hard feelings P.O.

CENSORSHIP

over art rejections

By CHELA ZABIN
STAFF WRITER

Some of the artists whose work was rejected for an exhibit at Watsonville City Hall may be upset, but an organizer for the show said she had no hard feelings about it.

Julie Arizmendi, executive director of Arte Latino, which has a gallery in Santa Cruz, said she had been warned that since the show was going up before the formation of a city art exhibit review committee, the works would be reviewed by the city clerk and the city manager and that decisions were likely to be on the conservative side.

"We agreed to the censorship process and we agreed not to make a stink about it," she said. "It wasn't like City Hall pulled a fast one on us ... I have no bitterness against the city manager or the city clerk because of this."

Arizmendi said that all the artists were warned that their works would have to go through a review process. Three works were rejected for the show. In a story that appeared in the Santa

Cruz Sentinel Saturday, several artists said they were upset about the censorship.

She said that in the future, if any works in an Arte Latino show are censored, the entire show will be pulled. But, she said, organizers felt that it was more important this time around to get the show up at City Hall in time for Cinco de Mayo than to stick to principles regarding censorship.

She said the gallery will most likely try for an exhibit at City Hall again and that she's had a few calls from people who read Saturday's article offering exhibit space for Arte Latino.

Arizmendi helped the city write its policy regarding art exhibits. At the city's request, Arte Latino will nominate someone to sit on the review committee. Arizmendi said she's talked to two or three people about it and expects to have a recommendation by the end of the week.

"We want to be part of the process," she said. "We want more community participation on the panel so that the community values are represented."