

# Why art works were 'banned' by officials

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Three works of art that were deleted from an art show at Watsonville City Hall probably would have been allowed by a review committee the city is putting together to oversee exhibits there, a city official said.

City Clerk Lorraine Washington said that she and City Manager Steve Salomon were being "very conservative" in their selection of art work for the display, "Memories and Chances: Images of Culture and Heritage," because the committee has not yet been formed.

Artists who took part in the show were reportedly upset about the exclusion of some of the work. No one from the Arte Latino gallery, which organized the exhibit, could be reached for comment by press time.

One of the rejected works

showed a woman nursing a baby. Another was a drawing of a Catholic church on top of a buried Aztec pyramid.

Washington said she was surprised that the artists were upset because she thought the conditions under which the show could take place were clear.

A controversy last year over an art exhibit that was critical of the United States' role in El Salvador led to the formation of a city art display policy and a decision to set up a committee that would review proposals for art shows. That committee has not yet been formed, and in the interim, Washington and Salomon, designated by the council to do the job, were trying to play it safe.

Washington said the organizers wanted to have the show in place for Cinco de Mayo, and that the only other option was not to have

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the show at all.

"We explained to both Jorge and Julie (Chino and Arizmendi, respectively, the organizers of the show) that we would be very conservative during the interim period," Washington said, adding that the excluded art "more than