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KANSAS CITY ARTIST CHOSEN TO CREATE ALBERT PUJOLS' 600th HOME RUN COMMEMORATIVE PAINTING FOR PUJOLS FAMILY

Kansas City, Kan. - July 31, 2017: Designer/Artist Anthony "AO" Oropeza, was recently chosen by Deidre Pujols, wife of KC native, current Major League Baseball player and future Hall of Famer Albert Pujols, to create a piece an original painting for their personal collection. Mrs. Pujols is the CEO of two new charity foundations - Open Gate International and Strike Out Slavery. The piece she selected Oropeza to create and commemorate her husband's 600th home run was also gifted in print for each of the 200 plus guests attending their inaugural Open Gate International fundraising event in Newport Beach, California, held on July 17, 2017.

The painting by Oropeza is a 5 ft. x 4 ft. mixed media piece featuring a layout design that incorporates typography, graphics and a wonderful combination of abstract, color and stylistic imagery, all encapsulated with a rugged baseball feel only Oropeza can create.

The piece titled "Albert's 600," was created by Oropeza as a gift to Albert from wife Deidre, to celebrate his June 3, 2017 accomplishment of 600 Major League Home Runs, a feat that only eight other MLB players have achieved since Babe Ruth. Pujols is the eighth player to do so since Ruth in 1931.

The K.C.K. native, AO, resides in the KC area. While he maintains full-time employment as a Web Development Coordinator, he keeps busy nights and weekends as a multi-talented designer/artist, managing multiple projects, including his sports painting, illustration, comic book, writing, graphic design and web/social media consulting.

"I'm extremely honored and excited about having this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to design a piece of work for such a great couple, a great event and in honor of a 1st ballot MLB Hall of Famer," said Oropeza.

Oropeza's purpose as an artist is to create art that will assist in changing lives and maybe change the world, and he expressed that he is extremely honored to participate in an event which aligns so closely with his personal goals of promoting a happier, healthier world.

The OGI fundraiser took place at the Duke Hotel in Newport, California, on July 17. The theme of the event was influenced by the fun-loving fascination for heroism and super heroes of CEO Deidre Pujols. The evening highlighted the amazing contributions of individuals who champion the cause of human rights and are heroes in reality. In attendance, of course, was recording-breaking, 600 home run hitting Albert Pujols along with other Angels players and local celebrities.

OGI provides previously impoverished, displaced, enslaved and forgotten individuals various empowering opportunities via vocational training, mentoring and employment. More about OGI's mission and the inaugural fundraiser can be found at www.opengateintl.org.

About AOART5 / Anthony "AO" Oropeza

AOART5

Located in Kansas City, it is Oropeza's art and design studio. The studio focuses on Sports Art, Comic Books and Art for kids, Character Art, and Web Design Consulting.

Anthony "AO" Oropeza

A full-time Web Development Coordinator for a local park and recreation district, AO works on various creative projects outside of his full-time employment. Along with his sports art, comic book work and web work, AO also works with various charitable organizations in the U.S.

For more information about AO's work, works in progress and upcoming events, visit his website at www.AOART5.com, or check him out on social media.

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