



The U.S. Latinx Art Forum Announces Second Installment of the 2023-2024 “X as Intersection” Series

New York, NY, February 7, 2024 - [The U.S. Latinx Art Forum](http://uslaf.org) (USLAF) today announced the third installment of the [2023-2024 “X as Intersection” series](http://uslaf.org/x-as-intersection), a four-part virtual public program featuring virtual conversations with fellows from the 2023-2024 cohort of the [Latinx Artist Fellowship](http://uslaf.org/artist-fellowship). The series continues on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 1 pm PST/3pm CST/4pm EST with “Homenaje,” an event co-hosted by El Museo del Barrio and the US Latinx Art Forum, and features artists: Felipe Baeza, Edra Soto, and Mario Ybarra Jr. The conversation will be co-moderated by Susanna V. Temkin, Curator, El Museo del Barrio, and Sonja E. Gandert, Associate Director Research Initiatives, US Latinx Art Forum. Details about the full series calendar and information on how to RSVP can be found by visiting <http://uslaf.org/x-as-intersection>.

“The artists on this panel represent an array of geographic, cultural, and stylistic vantage points spanning the United States and the Caribbean,” said **Sonja E. Gandert, Associate Director of Research Initiatives, US Latinx Art Forum**. “Drawing on their unique experiences and perspectives, collectively they affirm the vitality of their communities through a range of strategies of artistic commemoration.”

In moments of hardship and joy alike, acts of memorialization, monumentalization, and remembrance carry particular resonance. This panel invites artists Felipe Baeza, Edra Soto, and Mario Ybarra Jr. to reflect on the presence of *homenaje* (homage or tribute) in their work. Acknowledging the significance of forging connections between past, present, and future, the discussion will explore how commemoration can shed light on ancestral places and identities, obscured or suppressed histories, and the affirmation of collective memory and spirituality.

“From surfacing unrecognized traditions to remembering friends and ancestors, the artists on this panel explore the idea of *homenaje* through various approaches,” said **Susanna V. Temkin, Curator, El Museo del Barrio**. “Through our shared conversation, we look forward to considering how these practices inform and help us to navigate our personal and collective futures.”

All events in the series are presented in both English and Spanish, and simultaneous Spanish interpretation by Babilla Collective is available. To learn more about each program, visit: <http://uslaf.org/x-as-intersection>.

About the Latinx Artist Fellowship

Designed to address the systemic and longstanding lack of support for Latinx art and artists, the Latinx Artist Fellowship awards \$50,000 each year to a multigenerational cohort of 15 Latinx visual artists for an initial commitment of five years. Administered by the [U.S. Latinx Art Forum](#) in collaboration with the New York Foundation for the Arts, and supported by the Mellon Foundation and the Ford Foundation, this award is the first significant prize of its kind and celebrates the plurality and diversity of Latinx artists and aesthetics. For more information on the Latinx Artist Fellowship, visit <https://uslaf.org/latinx-artist-fellowship-2023/>.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About U.S. Latinx Art Forum

Since 2015, the U.S. Latinx Art Forum (USLAF) has supported the creation of a more equitable art world by championing artists and arts professionals dedicated to Latinx art through research, studio practice, pedagogy, and writing. USLAF generates and supports initiatives that benefit an intergenerational network of more than 900 members and advances the vitality of Latinx art within academia, art institutions, and collections. Past initiatives have included data collection to track the growth of Latinx art history in academia, which in turn fueled advocacy efforts for greater representation of Latinx art; a closed-door convening with stakeholders to understand the urgent issues facing Latinx artists and cultural workers; and the Mazorca Initiative, a micro-grant program launched in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing threats to justice caused by systemic racism and xenophobia.

About El Museo del Barrio

El Museo del Barrio is the nation's leading Latinx and Latin American cultural institution. The Museum welcomes visitors of all backgrounds to discover the artistic landscape of these communities through its extensive Permanent Collection, varied exhibitions and publications, bilingual public programs, educational activities, festivals, and special events. For more information, visit <https://www.elmuseo.org/>.

About the Artists

Felipe Baeza (b. 1987) is a visual artist whose practice is equal parts confrontation of violent pasts and a tribute to people whose sense of personhood is constantly litigated and defined by those in power.

Edra Soto (b. 1971) is an artist, curator, educator, and co-director of the outdoor project space, The Franklin. Growing up in Puerto Rico, and now immersed in her Chicago community, Soto's

work raises questions about constructed social orders, diasporic identity, and the legacy of colonialism.

Mario Ybarra Jr. (b. 1973) is a conceptual artist born and raised in Los Angeles whose artwork operates as examinations of excluded social norms, often examining complete environments, histories, and narratives.

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Press Contacts:

Michelle Ruiz
Program Coordinator
US Latinx Art Forum
michelle@uslaf.org

Mary Thomas, Ph.D.
Director of Programs
US Latinx Art Forum
mary@uslaf.org