



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

New York, NY, March 13, 2024 - [The U.S. Latinx Art Forum](#) (USLAF) today announced the fourth installment of the [2023-2024 “X as Intersection” series](#), a four-part virtual public program featuring virtual conversations with fellows from the 2023-2024 cohort of the [Latinx Artist Fellowship](#). The series continues on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 1 pm PST/3pm CST/4pm EST with “Material Interventions,” an event co-hosted by Museum Fine Arts, Houston and the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Puerto Rico, and features artists: Joiri Minaya, Tina Tavera, Sofía Gallisá, and Verónica Gaona. The conversation will be co-moderated by Mari Carmen Ramírez, Wortham Curator of Latin American Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and Director, of the International Center for the Arts of the Americas and Marina Reyes Franco, Curator, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Puerto Rico. Details about the full series calendar and information on how to RSVP can be found by visiting <http://uslaf.org/x-as-intersection>.

“Latinx art has been studied primarily from the perspectives of identity politics, decoloniality, race, gender, and activism. Yet, many of these artists are also engaged in radical experiments with materials and technical processes which are as groundbreaking as their politics,” **said Mari Carmen Ramírez, Wortham Curator of Latin American Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and Director, of the International Center for the Arts of the Americas.** “We want to bring attention to this fundamental dimension of their practice which is critical to how the work is understood by viewers and audiences. In doing so, we hope to elevate the interpretation of these artists to the level of artistic innovation.”

This panel brings together the artists Joiri Minaya, Tina Tavera, Sofía Gallisá Muriente, and Verónica Gaona, who actively utilize the materiality of their work as a means to challenge cultural stereotypes and interrogate constructs of race, ethnicity, gender, and identity. By centering the discussion around the notion of material as a signifier, this panel shifts the conversation about Latinx art from emphasis on notions of identity and into the realm of the strategies artists use to convey their message.

“The artists joining in conversation have practices that expand from installation, to performance, photography, sculpture, video, and printmaking. They work repurposing materials, filming or

creating monumental works, and even sometimes challenging the idea of archive and object permanence.” said **Marina Reyes Franco, Curator, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Puerto Rico**. “We look forward to discussing the strategies around how these materialities impact the artmaking process, its end result, and how the work is understood.”

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 Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Spanning 14 acres in the heart of Houston’s Museum District, the Faye S. Sarofim Campus of the MFAH comprises the Audrey Jones Beck Building, the Caroline Wiess Law Building, the Nancy and Rich Kinder Building, and the Lillie and Hugh Roy Cullen Sculpture Garden. Nearby, two house museums—Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens, and Rienzi—present collections of American and European decorative arts. The MFAH is also home to the Glassell School of Art, with its Core Residency Program and Junior and Studio schools; and the International Center for the Arts of the Americas (ICAA), a leading research institute for 20th-century Latin American and Latino art.

About Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Puerto Rico

The MAC fosters an open view of contemporary art from multiple perspectives that converge in Puerto Rico: Diasporic, Latinx, Caribbean-regional and Latin American cultures within a global context. It is a collecting institution, a space of production and creation as well as of research and exhibition that encourages a constant dialogue between artists and audiences through cultural equity programs developed on and offsite. By advancing curatorial work, catalyzing the production of cutting-edge new artistic work and implementing innovative methodologies, the Museum makes available to all types of audiences its cultural diversity, exhibitions and interdisciplinary programs.

About the Artists

Sofía Gallisá Muriente is a visual artist and cultural organizer whose practice resists colonial erasures and claims the freedom of historical agency in order to propose mechanisms for remembering and reimagining.

Verónica Gaona is a multidisciplinary artist from Brownsville, Texas, currently living and working in Houston; her work, which is informed by her transnational identity and the sociopolitical climate, investigates notions of architecture, migration, and death.

Joiri Minaya is a multidisciplinary artist whose work navigates binaries in search of in-betweenness, investigating the female body within constructions of identity, multicultural social spaces and hierarchies.

Maria Cristina (Tina) Tavera is a multidisciplinary artist whose work examines socially-determined signifiers that shape how people define themselves and their cultures in everyday life; her work focuses on Latinidad within the U.S. via numerous mediums including printing, sculpture, installation, public art.

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