



The U.S. Latinx Art Forum Announces First Program of the 2024-2025 "X as Intersection" Series

Medford, MA, October 23, 2024 - [The U.S. Latinx Art Forum](http://uslaf.org) (USLAF) today announced the first 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 2024-2025 cohort of the [Latinx Artist Fellowship](http://uslaf.org/latinx-artist-fellowship). The series continues on Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 1 pm PST/3pm CST/4pm EST with "**Bridging Time**," an event co-hosted by US Latinx Art Forum and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and features artists: **Yreina D. Cervántez, Joel Gaitan, Maria Maea, and Chris E. Vargas**. The conversation will be co-moderated by **Rita Gonzalez**, Terri and Michael Smooke Curator and Head of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) and **Rose Salseda**, Director of Research Initiatives, USLAF. 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' conceptual approaches to art making are varied, and include the Queering of the museum, the selection of sculptural materials and their environmental consequences, and the legacy of Latinx feminist art and activism," explains **Rita Gonzalez, Terri and Michael Smooke Curator and Head of Contemporary Art at LACMA**. "Yet, despite their differences in mediums and praxis," **Rose Salseda, Co-founder and Director of Research Initiatives at USLAF**, further elucidates, "their work highlights how the past continues to affect and shape our present, pushing our very understandings of time, place, who we are, and what our world can be."

This panel invites artists Yreina D. Cervántez, Joel Gaitan, Maria Maea, and Chris E. Vargas into conversation for a focused dialogue. Drawing upon points of resonance throughout their works, the panel will consider how these artists interface with questions of temporality and historical narratives.

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](https://uslaf.org) 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 Los Angeles County Museum of Art

Located on the Pacific Rim, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection of more than 150,000 objects that illuminate 6,000 years of artistic expression across the globe. Committed to showcasing a multitude of art histories, LACMA exhibits and interprets works of art from new and unexpected points of view that are informed by the region's rich cultural heritage and diverse population. LACMA's spirit of experimentation is reflected in its work with artists, technologists, and thought leaders as well as in its regional, national, and global partnerships to share collections and programs, create pioneering initiatives, and engage new audiences.

About the Artists

Yreina D. Cervántez Yreina D. Cervántez is a painter, printmaker, and muralist based in Los Angeles whose body of work reflects nearly fifty years of exploration, informed by Native Mesoamerican mythology, cosmology, and spirituality, Mexican art traditions, and Chicana poetics. Yreina's work has been exhibited at and is in the collections of a wide range of renowned cultural institutions such as the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Joel Gaitan Joel Gaitan is a sculptor who lives and works in Miami and whose work studies matters of self-identity, sexuality, and ancestral lineage. From forgotten tongues to erased

cultures, he explores traditional hand-building clay techniques, keeping a sacred tradition from Nicaragua and Central America alive in a colonized world.

Maria Maea Maria Maea is a multidisciplinary artist working in sculpture, installation, performance, film, and sound who lives and works in Los Angeles. Through her art practice, she deepens her connection to land, somatic memory, and ancestry; her works act as a residue of her lived experience as a first generation Los Angeleno of Samoan and Mexican heritage.

Chris E. Vargas Chris E. Vargas is a transdisciplinary artist born and raised in Los Angeles. He is the Executive Director of MOTHA, the Museum of Trans History & Art, a critical and conceptual arts and history institution highlighting the contributions of trans art to the cultural and political landscape.

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