



FALL 2023



# LATIN AMERICAN ART PATRONS



## Reserve Your Spot!

### *Cecilia Vicuña: Sonoran Quipu*

#### Tour at MOCA Tucson with curator Laura Copelin

Sonoran Quipu is a sprawling sculpture composed of natural and human debris collected by individuals and organizations across Tucson, gathered from kitchens, gutters, artists' studios, gardens, and streets. Transforming the museum into a studio, artist and poet Cecilia Vicuña alchemized these fragments — things deemed no longer useful, having been shed by a plant, broken by a child, or left in an alley — into a living installation. The exhibition also includes elements that offer a small window into the breadth of Vicuña's practice: three videos, a sound piece, a little library, and the vapors of performances, rituals, and relationships Vicuña created while in Tucson. Sonoran Quipu senses the fragility of our world as climate change tilts us towards mass extinction.

#### Special Curator Tour for LAAP Members

September 15, 11:00 a.m.  
followed by a no-host lunch at  
El Antojito Poblano

RSVP by September 12th to:  
Kathi Sanders  
kathisandersarizona@gmail.com  
or at

<https://12194a.blackbaudhosting.com/12194a/LA-AP-Visit-to-MOCA-Tucson>

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*and more!*

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

## SUE ERICKSON NIELAND



The summer of record breaking heat and “nonsoon” is almost over and now we can anticipate an exciting array of LAAP programming and activities as we enjoy more temperate weather!

Our September and October programs are linked by a decidedly Peruvian/Andean textile theme. We start with a contemporary version of an Andean concept: the “quipu” or knot as a means of Andean communication that was seen as subversive by the Spanish as they colonized South America. Our group will tour the MOCA exhibition, *Cecilia Vicuña: Sonoran Quipu* with curator Laura Copelin and discover artist and poet Cecilia Vicuña’s interpretation of this concept followed by a no-host lunch at El Antojo Poblano.

In October we will take a late afternoon tour of Kristopher’s highly anticipated exhibition at TMA - *CUMBI: Textiles, Society and Memory in Andean South America* guided by the curator himself. LAAP was an underwriter for this exhibition which will be accompanied by a scrumptious catalogue! Our opening reception will feature an equally scrumptious array of Peruvian appetizers and South American wines catered by Feast. We are so proud of Kristopher’s work and want to celebrate!

**In November we gear up for our biennial fundraiser in conjunction with TMA’s Artisan Market on November 17, 18 and 19. We are still accepting donations** so as you edit your collections of art and folk art, **please contact Kristopher at [kdriggers@tucsonmuseumofart.org](mailto:kdriggers@tucsonmuseumofart.org)** and he will arrange for your items to be picked up.

**This is also an event that requires lots of volunteers. We anticipate two sessions of marking the items as well as staffing shifts over the three-day sale. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me** by email **[suzqnieland@gmail.com](mailto:suzqnieland@gmail.com)** or text **712-490-1538**. It’s always such fun to work this sale and a great way to get to know other LAAP members . . . and perhaps add to your own collection!

We are happy to welcome four new board members this year and look forward to introducing them in our newsletters. Check out the profiles of Diane Dale and Alejandro Macias in this issue.

I look forward to meeting new members, socializing with old friends and working with each of you as we continue to learn about Latin American art and raise funds for the exhibition and acquisition of Latin American art at TMA.

# LETTER FROM THE CURATOR



Dear LAAP Members,

Looking at art programs across the city, 2023 has shaped up to be an exceptional year for those of us who love Latin American art. One happy coincidence has been that this year, both TMA and MOCA Tucson have devoted attention to textile traditions from the Andes. MOCA is currently showing *Cecilia Vicuña: Sonoran Quipu*, a show that highlights an Indigenous tradition of keeping records with cloth, as reinterpreted by the world-renowned contemporary artist. LAAP will be visiting MOCA on September 15 for a curator tour of the exhibition

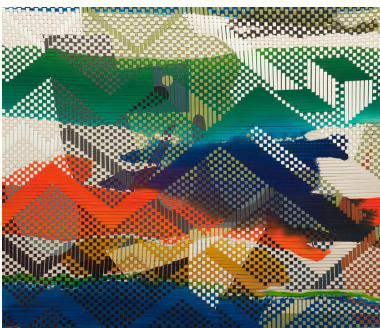
by colleague Laura Copelin. We're kicking off our season a little earlier than usual in order to make sure you have a chance to see Vicuña's fascinating work.

Not long after, TMA opens a feature show on October 13 entitled *CUMBI: Textiles, Society, and Memory in Andean South America*. Andean weavers devoted exceptional energy to creating textile works; ancient Andean textiles use techniques that are not known in any other historical weaving tradition in the world. TMA has a long history of collecting Peruvian and Bolivian weavings, and I'm very pleased that we will be able to highlight works from our collection in the show. Though many of the textiles in the exhibition are ancient, I am especially excited that we are bringing in the work of contemporary artists (like Miguel Arzabe, shown below) as well to help us gain new perspectives on historical traditions. We will also have plenty of exciting programs to accompany the show, including a visit from expert curator Andrew Hamilton of the Art Institute of Chicago, who will speak about an exceptional Inka royal tunic.

LAAP keeps many of us busy, and I am so grateful to all of the members for the energy, excitement, and passion that you bring to the museum's work representing Latin American culture. I look forward to working with you again this season!

Warmly yours,  
Kristopher

Kristopher Driggers  
Associate Curator, Bernard and Jeanette Schmidt Curator of Latin American Art



*Miguel Arzabe, Llallagua, 2021, woven acrylic on canvas.  
Courtesy of Paul and Cassandra Hazen. Photo courtesy of  
the artist.*

# JOIN THE LAAP ROAD TRIP

## San Antonio, Texas

*A Vibrant City Rich in History and Culture*

**Thursday, February 29 - Sunday, March 3, 2024**



San Antonio is unique in the U.S. for two important designations. It's the location of a UNESCO World Heritage Site and it received a UNESCO commendation as a Creative City of Gastronomy. Either of these two prestigious titles would provide reasons to visit San Antonio, but the city has more surprises in store.

We will spend four nights at the Hotel Gibbs, an elegant combination of historic preservation and modern design. Built in 1909 as San Antonio's

first high-rise building, the hotel has transformed into a luxurious and modern boutique hotel conveniently located near the city's dining, nightlife and shopping

While we're in San Antonio, LAAP will visit museums, tour up-and-coming galleries, and meet with artists to understand exactly what makes this city so important as a place for thinking about Latin American culture today. We'll start with a tour of the Rockefeller Wing at San Antonio Museum of Art, one of the country's most comprehensive presentations of a Latin American art collection.

We'll also receive a tour from the director of Ruiz-Healy Gallery, which brings national attention to Latin American and Latinx artists at galleries in San Antonio and New York and at art fairs across the globe. And we'll meet members of a new generation of artists who are leading the way for Latinx art in our own time.

Much more is planned, and additional information will be provided soon. For now, please "save the dates" on your calendar.



## LAAP EVENTS



### ***CUMBI: Textiles, Society and Memory in Andean South America***

Curator tour for LAAP Members  
followed by an opening reception  
October 15, 3:30 p.m.

In Inka culture, the Quechua word *cumbi* described exquisite textiles that were among the finest works ever produced in South America. These elaborate, tapestry-woven designs were made to be worn by an emperor. This exhibit takes a new look at 2,000 years of art in Andean tradition, showing ancient textiles alongside the work of contemporary Latin American and Latinx artists inspired by ancestral weaving.

The opening reception on the Larkin Patio, catered by Feast, will feature a variety of Peruvian appetizers and a selection of wines from South America.

**Price: \$45 per person** payable online at the TMA website or via a check made payable to "TMA LAAP" and sent to Kristopher Driggers c/o TMA, 140 N. Main, Tucson, AZ 85701 by October 10th.

### **LAAP Booth at the Artisan Market**

November 17 - 19, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (4:00 p.m. on Sunday)

This event helps raise funds for the exhibition and purchase of Latin American Art for TMA and we need your help to make this fundraiser a success!

We still need donated Latin American art and folk art to sell. Please cull through your collection and **contact Kristopher to donate items: [kdiggers@tucsonmuseumofart.org](mailto:kdiggers@tucsonmuseumofart.org)**.

Volunteers are needed to price items and staff our booth across three days. It's a great way to meet people, promote LAAP to potential members and bring in cash for the museum, so **contact Sue Nieland to volunteer: email: [suzqnieland@gmail.com](mailto:suzqnieland@gmail.com) or text 712-490-1538**.



## TMA EVENTS

### **Howl at TMA**

October 27, 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Howl at the Museum is a lively and engaging evening which includes art viewing, music, interactive performances, drinks, light bites, and revelries, along with Whiskey Del Bac's Showdown, a cocktail competition premiering creations by Tucson's best bartenders. Howl is an indoor/outdoor event in support of TMA's extensive arts programming and community engagement activities.

Tickets are \$35 for members and available at [tucsonmuseumofart.org/howl](http://tucsonmuseumofart.org/howl).

### ***The Royal Inca Tunic: A Biography of an Andean Masterpiece***

November 15, 5:30 p.m. at TMA

Andrew Hamilton, Associate Curator, Arts of the Americas, Art Institute of Chicago

The most celebrated Andean artwork in the world is a five-hundred-year-old Inca tunic made famous through theories about the meanings of its intricate designs, including attempts to read them as a long-lost writing system. But very little is really known about it. Hamilton's book, *Royal Inca Tunic* reconstructs the history of this enigmatic object, drawing on meticulous physical examinations of the garment conducted over a decade, wide-ranging studies of colonial Peruvian manuscripts, and groundbreaking research into the tunic's provenance.



### ***Weaving Memory* Panel Discussion at TMA**

December 7, 5:30 p.m. at TMA

This discussion features *CUMBI* artist Perla Segovia, a longtime TMA collaborator and featured artist. Her artistic mission is to advocate for the value of immigrants and immigration to our nation. She aims to celebrate their strength, perseverance, dreams and sacrifices. She incorporates textiles and textile techniques into her work because they resonate with most viewers and therefore have the potential of being an effective tool of communication.

## HAPPENINGS THIS FALL

September through May is always a busy time in Tucson - snowbirds return and full-time residents settle in for months of festivals, theater, exhibits and special events that make our Southwestern home such a special place to live.

### **Cassandra at Cinema Tucson**

September 13, 7:00 p.m. at Fox Theater

Based on a true story, Cassandra stars renowned Mexican actor Gael García Bernal as Saúl Armendáriz, a gay amateur wrestler from El Paso, rises to international stardom after he creates the character Cassandra, the “Liberace of Lucha Libre.” In the process, he upends not just the macho wrestling world, but also his own life. In English and Spanish with English subtitles. For more information, visit [cinematucson.com](http://cinematucson.com)

WEDNESDAY ★ SEPTEMBER 13 ★ 7:00 PM	
<p>Mexican films at the Fox Tucson Theatre!</p> <p>Advance reservations encouraged.</p> <p><b>Free!</b> ADVANCE SCREENING</p> <p>Visit <a href="http://foxtucson.com">foxtucson.com</a> or walk-up to box office for available tickets night of show.</p>	<p><b>Cinema Tucson</b></p> <p><b>Cassandra</b> USA/Mexico, 2023 In English and Spanish with English subtitles Starring renowned Mexican actor Gael García Bernal as Saúl Armendáriz, a gay amateur wrestler from El Paso, who rises to international stardom as the “Liberace of Lucha Libre.”</p> <p>Directed by Academy Award® winner Roger Ross Williams</p> <p>Visit <a href="http://www.cinematucson.com">www.cinematucson.com</a></p>



### **¡Viva Tucson! A Hispanic Heritage Month Fiesta**

September 15 - October 15

From the food and the history to the music and the art, the story of Hispanic culture in America is the story of Tucson. So when Hispanic Heritage Month kicks off each year in September, it's easy to understand why Tucson is the perfect place to celebrate.

¡Viva Tucson! means you can dance to the music, taste the flavors, and be immersed in Tucson's unique Hispanic culture during this month of celebration – and all year round.

For a list of events going on during Hispanic Heritage Month, visit

<https://www.visittucson.org/events/festivals-and-annual-events/hispanic-heritage-month/>





## **All Souls Procession** **Tucson's tradition of remembrance** First weekend in November

Tucson's Dia de Los Muertos-inspired event has been a beloved community-powered event since 1990. Many Mouths One Stomach will produce and host the 34th Annual All Souls Procession Weekend with events, openings, and opportunities to deepen your connection to the community and to your lost loved ones. For more information, visit <https://www.visittucson.org/events/festivals-and-annual-events/all-souls-procession/>

## **2023 Arizona Artist Exhibition Awards at Phoenix Art Museum** July 19, 2023 - May 12, 2024

LAAP Board member Alejandro Macias was recently awarded the Lehmann Emerging Artist Award by Phoenix Art Museum. In conjunction with the award, his exhibition is now on view at the museum. His work mixes conventional, representational, and abstract approaches, a strategy that acts as a metaphor for his upbringing along the U.S.-Mexico border. His work explores themes of Mexican-American identity, assimilation, acculturation, repression, civil rights, immigration, cultural misconceptions, contemporary socio-political trepidations, and the ever-shifting American political landscape.

## **Louis Carlos Bernal Art Gallery at Pima Community College**

*Images and Conversations: Louis Carlos Bernal, Author and Historian Patricia Preciado Martin*

September 5 - October 6

Reception: September 13, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

*Women in Nature: Maya Goded, Bremner Benedict, Alejandra Platt-Torres*

October 30 - December 8

Reception: November 1, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.



# MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



**Diane Dale** was born in Dallas, TX and attended the University of Texas, Austin. She studied art at l'Università per Stranieri in Perugia, Italy and painting at l'Accademia di Belle Arte in Rome. More recently, she spent a year studying painting and intaglio at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI.

Diane's artwork has been exhibited locally at the Tucson International Airport, in the Bernal Gallery at PCC, TMA, Davis Dominguez, and Dinnerware Gallery. She has exhibited in Italy, Michigan, Washington, D.C. and Austin, TX and her work has appeared in magazines in Italy and

the US. For 17 years she worked for Yves St. Laurent in Rome and New York as well as Valentino Garavani doing sales, buying collections and setting up displays. During the last three of those years, she freelanced as a stylist setting up fashion shows, displays and working directly with fashion designers and photographers.



**Alejandro Macias** was born and raised in Brownsville, Texas, along the U.S./ Mexico border, Alejandro Macias received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas at Brownsville in 2008, and a Master of Fine Arts in 2-D Studio Art from the University of Texas-Pan American in 2012.

His work has been driven by his Mexican-American identity and the current social-political climate. Raised in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV), his body of work addresses themes of heritage, immigration, and

ethnicity, which are set in contrast to his critical engagement with the assimilation and acculturation process often referred to as "Americanization."

He has exhibited nationally and internationally. Since 2016 he has been the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions including notable and prestigious residencies at Centrum in Port Townsend, WA, Vermont Studio Center, Chateau d'Orquevaux in Orquevaux, France, The Studios at MASS MoCA, and most recently Wassaic Project.

His work has been recognized and remains in the permanent collections of The City of San Antonio Department of Art and Culture, Brownsville Museum of Fine Art, Mexic-Arte Museum in Austin, 4Culture in Seattle, WA, Chateau d'Orquevaux, and Tucson Museum of Art. He currently serves as an Assistant Professor of Painting and Drawing at the University of Arizona School of Art in Tucson, AZ.

# NOTA BENE

## LAAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Kristopher Driggers, Curator

*Cover images (left to right)*

*Cecilia Vicuña*

*Sonoran Quipu at Museum of Contemporary Art Tucson*

*MOCA Tucson exterior*