



SPRING 2024



LATIN AMERICAN ART PATRONS



Make Your Reservation!

*Join the Latin American Art Patrons
for Our Annual Meeting and Fiesta*

*Sunday, April 14th
11:00 a.m. - 1:00p.m.*

*at Casa de Nieland (LaCasa Rosada)
2901 E. Mabel*

*Enjoy a delicious Mexican meal catered
by Maria Bonita*

*Catch up with your fellow LAAP members
and
hear about the activities planned for
2024-25.*

*Guests are welcome!
\$30/person*

*RSVP no later than April 11th at
(click on link):
<https://tinyurl.com/LaapBrunch>*

**Please contact Sue Nieland at
suezqnieland@gmail.com with any
questions.**



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

SUE ERICKSON NIELAND



Suddenly it's April 1 and after a cool and wet winter, Tucson has sprung into spring! We had an event-filled trip to San Antonio, our curator's home town! Many thanks to the committee – David Andres, Stevie Mack, Kathi Sanders, Alex Macías and Kristopher Driggers—for putting this trip together! The itinerary was remarkable and we'll focus on some of the highlights in this newsletter.

In January Brazilian artist and U of A Professor Marcos Serafin shared his remarkable journey from documentary photography to his current work with video installations using AI.

An example of Serafin's video installations.



In February, we toured the Mill Street Studio complex where the studio's founder, Latinx glass artist Sara Hubbs explained her various series as well as her process for creating art.



Because of the importance of the TMA Gala and the staff commitment required, your LAAP board chose not to schedule an event in March...but I look forward to hosting you all in April at our Annual Meeting/Fiesta and in May we've scheduled a Curator's tour of the exhibition *Time Travelers: Foundations, Transformations, and Expansions* at the Centennial in recognition of TMA's celebration of 100 years.

By now you should have received a questionnaire about what direction our members would like us to take in terms of programming, travel and fundraising. I hope that many of you will take time to return the questionnaire and be honest in your responses. We know how busy everyone is and want to program for your benefit!

In some ways, this has been a monumental year for LAAP. Although we are the smallest of TMA's "support orgs," we have a heavy lift since one focus of the museum's collecting is Latin American Art. This year we made our first contributions to that collecting priority by approving funds for the acquisition of two artworks: one is Spanish Colonial and the other, Contemporary Latin X...details next issue!. Our ability to commit these funds is a result of the hard work by our membership. Thank you all for your support of our fundraising efforts!

Be sure to reserve your place for our Annual Meeting/Fiesta on Sunday, April 14th at LaCasa Rosada!

Hasta luego,

Sue Erickson Nieland



LETTER FROM THE CURATOR



Dear LAAP Members,

Over the last few years, you've probably noticed a change in the way that TMA approaches its permanent collection. More than ever, the museum is focused on creating inclusion and equity in all aspects of its curatorial work. This means that if you visit one of our permanent collection spaces today, you're likely to encounter labels or other materials that include the reflections and expertise of members of our community, as well as an emphasis on the ways that the objects at TMA are relevant in our context here in the Southwest.

I mention these emphases in our curatorial work because TMA has just completed a massive undertaking, a multi-year grant project from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, or IMLS. One of the culminating pieces of this project is a new toolkit: a publication with writing and editing by TMA staff that includes perspectives on many different aspects of the project. This toolkit will help other museum professionals to learn from TMA's experience – and will also help to spread the word about the fresh approaches we are taking here. I encourage you to visit the TMA website in the coming months to learn more about this toolkit and our ideas about museums.

In other news, TMA's Latin American art collection continues to grow, including through the generosity of LAAP members. This quarter, I want to highlight a recent gift from Stevie Mack and Mike Grassinger, who made possible the purchase of an elaborate wood sculpture by Oaxacan artist Agustin Cruz Prudencio and Carmen Sosa Ojeda. Notice the wings on their Sirena Ángel, meticulously adorned with designs drawn from the architectural friezes on ancient structures from Mitla. Our Latin American Folk Art collection is not the only area of our holdings to grow this year; keep an eye out soon for the announcement of other major additions to the museum's holdings!

As always, I am so grateful to LAAP members for your continued support of the museum's initiatives. Many thanks to you, and I wish you a wonderful start to the Spring!

Kristopher Driggers

*Agustin Cruz Prudencio and Carmen Sosa Ojeda,
Sirena Ángel, 2023, copal wood, acrylic.
Museum purchase with funds provided by Stevie
Mack and Mike Grassinger, 2023.23.*



IN REMEMBRANCE



Carol Lynne Deters
1940-2024

We have learned that Carol Deters, a past president of the Latin American Art Patrons, died in Florida in January. Many of us have fond memories of Carol and her devotion to LAAP.

Carol attended Illinois State University and graduated with a B.A. in English and Spanish. She taught Spanish at all levels throughout her career. She and her husband Jim retired to Tucson in 2002 and were avid travelers to Mexico, Latin America and Europe.

She is survived by her husband, three children and nine grandchildren.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN: LAAP TRIP TO SAN ANTONIO, TX

by Sue Nieland

Between February 29th and March 3rd TMA Latin American Art Patrons, led by Kristopher Driggers, explored the historic city of San Antonio, TX. It was a great opportunity to visit major Latin American art collections as well as view the work of a new generation of Latinx artists.



Our intrepid group posed for a photo in front of Mission San Jose on the last day of our trip to San Antonio.

Remember the Alamo?

Tour participants stayed at the historic Hotel Gibbs, located right across the street from a famous landmark “The Alamo.” I couldn’t resist an early morning walk before our shuttle arrived. The Alamo bustled with re-enactors despite the early hour.



Our first stop on Friday was the San Antonio Museum of Art where we toured Latin American collections including galleries featuring folk art, Spanish Colonial, Ancient America, and contemporary Latinx. SAMA itself, an imaginative space that began life as the Lone Star Brewery and was renovated in 1981, is located on San Antonio’s Riverwalk and reflects San Antonio’s proud history. We enjoyed lunch in the museum café, Tre Trattoria.

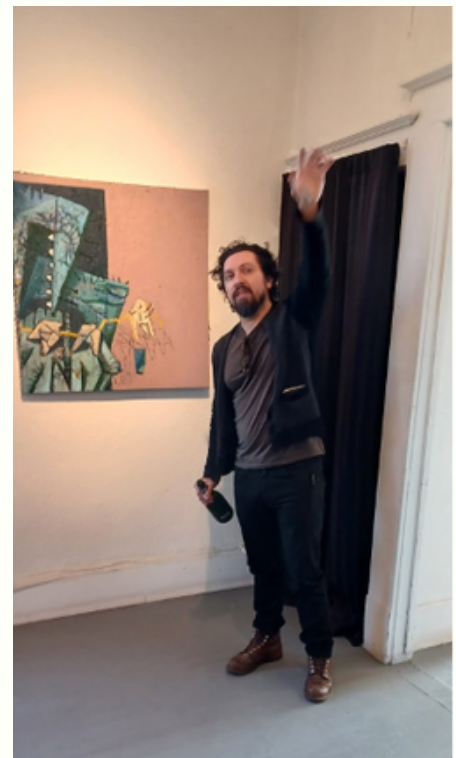


Patricia Ruiz-Healy took us through her elegant gallery. On the right is a photo performance inkjet print, *Cupcake Rose*, 2023, by Cecilia Paredes.



Before our evening's activities, we stopped to examine the WPA murals of Howard Norton Cook whose 16 murals in the lobby of the Federal building across the street from our hotel depict the history of Texas.

That evening we toured Presa House Gallery with director Rigo Luna. This gallery provides space for emerging Latinx artists. In the photo at right, John Guzman explains his work.



Saturday began with a tour of the studio of fiber artist Jenelle Esparza and on to the Blue Star Arts Complex (there are lots of converted breweries in San Antonio) for lunch, a visit to San Ángel, a folk art gallery and time to explore the Contemporary at Blue Star.



Among the exhibitions at the Contemporary was *Joe Harjo: Indian Removal Act II: And She Was*.



Our last stop before dinner at The Maverick Texas Brasserie was a visit to Ruby City, a space for contemporary art. On view were the exhibitions *Waterways* and a video installation *Fantôme Afrique* by Isaac Julien.



Sunday morning we toured Mission San José with Santero and retired firefighter Alfredo Rodriguez who later described his work as a folk artist.





We toured the highlights of the McNay Museum's collection and were fortunate to view a 3 room exhibition *Upward Mobility* by the De la Torre Brothers that had just opened.

After a quick lunch at The Pearl (another brewery landmark) we had time to rest before our farewell dinner at La Paloma.



Glass artistry and the wild imaginings of the De la Torre Brothers!

FUTURE LAAP/TMA EVENTS

LAAP Tour of *Time Travelers: Foundations, Transformations, and Expansions* with Kristopher Driggers

Wednesday, May 8, 11 a.m.

RSVP here:

<https://tinyurl.com/LaapTimeTravel>

Join LAAP for a tour of *Time Travelers: Foundations, Transformations, and Expansions at the Centennial* as Kristopher explores the complex relationships artworks have to the past, present, and future with attention to works from the Latin American Art Collection.



In 2024, the Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block (TMA) celebrates 100 years since its founding. The museum marks this milestone of exhibitions, collections, and programs by looking at the relationship of art to time in this special exhibit organized by three guiding concepts: Foundations, Transformations, and Expansions. “Foundations” includes early and significant acquisitions that formed the core of the museum’s collection, as well as works in which artists look in hindsight to historical precedents. “Transformations” features works that reveal an evolving relevance in the collection. “Expansions” presents new narratives, voices, and perspectives.

Curator Tour with Christine Brindza

Thursday, April 11 at 11:30 a.m.

Join Christine Brindza in a tour of *Time Travelers: Foundations, Transformations, and Expansions at the Centennial* with attention to works from the Art of the American West and Indigenous Arts collection. [Registration required.](#)

Docent Art Talk: *Toulouse-Lautrec: Montmartre’s Premier Artist-Observer of Belle-Epoque*

April 14 at 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm.

Presented by Harry Hakanson

Toulouse-Lautrec was Montmartre’s premier artist-observer of Belle Epoque. We will spend time discussing his life, the Café-Concert scene, and the culture of celebrity that was Montmartre. In doing so, we will examine his paintings, watercolors, lithographs, and posters that immortalized the people and places of the late 19th century Montmartre neighborhood of Paris.

FUTURE LAAP/TMA EVENTS

Artist Talk: Liz Cohen

Wednesday, April 17, 5:30 p.m.

Hear from photographer and performance artist Liz Cohen as she discusses her artistic practice, her work in *Time Travelers: Foundations, Transformations, and Expansions at the Centennial*, and career focused largely on the intersections of immigration, industry, labor, and women's representation in popular media. [Registration required.](#)

OUT AND ABOUT



Oppenheimers': One is Dad

An exhibition of artwork by Ernesto A. Trujillo that relates to his father and the atomic bomb.

Through June 7th

Desert Vista Art Gallery

(the newest Pima Community College Gallery)
Located on the Northside of the Pueblo Building just off Calle Santa Cruz. *Directions: West Irvington and I-19 on Calle Santa Cruz. Turn south on Calle Santa Cruz 5901 South on Desert Vista Campus.*

Free Parking.

Open to students and the community.

Tucson Masterworks Chorale

75th Anniversary Concert: *Carmina Burana* by Carl Orff

Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 3:00 pm

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

7575 N. Paseo Del Norte

General admission is \$20, Students \$10

Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at

tucsonmasterworkschorale.com

MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS



David Andres, Vice President

Shown here with his artist wife, Julia Andres

David obtained his MFA from Wichita State University in painting and printmaking. He moved to New York City where he set up an artist's studio in Park Slope. He relocated to Tucson to obtain an MA in Education with an emphasis in Gallery Management from UofA School of Art. David has been the Director and Curator of the Louis Carlos Bernal Gallery, Pima Community College since 2007. His artworks are in public collections throughout the country.

In 2012 Tucson Pima Arts Council awarded a 'LUMIE' for Pima County Art Educator. In 2017 David was awarded the Governor's Award for Independent Art Educator. In 2018-19 Salt River Project recognized him as an 'Arts Hero.' In 2020 he was awarded a 'Service Award for Diversity and Inclusion' by Pima Community College.

Andres' community involvement began as a member of Dinnerware Gallery in 1983. He has been a board member of CAS since 2010 and served as its President. In addition to his service as Vice President of LAAP, Andres is on the Board of Directors of B.L.A.C., a new art gallery in the heart of Tucson created to exhibit Black Artists.

His studio is located at the Process Museum of Art in Tucson.

NOTA BENE

LAAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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