



SPRING/SUMMER 2025



LATIN AMERICAN ART PATRONS



Margaritas, Musica y Comida Mexicana

Join LAAP for Our Annual Meeting and
Fiesta

Saturday, April 5th

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Larkin Patio

Tucson Museum of Art

Enjoy a delicious Mexican meal catered by
Maria Bonita Mexican Kitchen, catch up with
fellow LAAP members and
hear about the activities planned for
2025-26.

This event is FREE for LAAP Members who
bring a donation of merchandise for our
November Folk Art sale
Capacity is 50 people.
RSVP no later than April 2nd at:

[https://tinyurl.com/
LAAPANNUALMEETING2025](https://tinyurl.com/LAAPANNUALMEETING2025)

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

SUE ERICKSON NIELAND



In addition to celebrating its founding 100 years ago, the Tucson Museum of Art is once again undergoing a period of transition. The search for curators in Latin American and Contemporary Art was suspended when our CEO Norah Diedrich resigned in January. Our liaison with the museum, Christopher Gordon, has been named acting CEO. It is my understanding from the Trustees' Meetings that I've attended that a new CEO should be in place before the search for curators resumes. The search for said CEO is in process.

The Latin American Art Patrons have had two extremely successful programs so far this year, not to mention an art-filled travel fundraiser to Oaxaca. In January we toured the studios of U of A graduate students Vanessa Saavedra and Andrés Caballero. In addition to viewing the artwork, we had an interesting conversation about involving the graduate art students more closely with TMA. My special thanks to David Andres and Alex Macías for organizing this event.



Andrés Caballero showed work that examines the construction of Mexican identity through the exploration of traditional events, including lucha libre, a subject he has focused on for around two years.



During the studio tour, Vanessa Saavedra discussed how she uses her art to directly address the intersection of gender-based violence, systemic patriarchy, and the cultural complexities of border life.

In February Curator Rebecca Senf of the Center for Creative Photography took us through the exhibition *Louis Carlos Bernal Retrospectiva*. The quality of the exhibition was exceptional and Curator Senf's enthusiasm for the work was contagious!



I hope to see many of you on Saturday, April 5th when we have our Annual Meeting/Fiesta. As we have so many new members, we would like this to be a social event with a brief business meeting. . . Mexican food, musica and margaritas! We will gather in the Larkin Patio at TMA.

It has been an honor for me to serve as your president for the past three years. Thanks to each of you for your participation in our events and your willingness to share your opinions about our group. Thanks also to an exceptionally hard-working board: I've benefitted from your wise counsel on many occasions and value your contributions.

Saludos,

Sue Erickson Nieland

ON EXHIBIT AT TMA



Raphael Collazo: The Search for Expression

Puerto Rico born artist, Raphael Collazo (1943-1990), created abstract works inspired by art traditions, philosophy, and natural and ethereal worlds. His work is recognized for impasto, or thick paint, as well as distinct color combinations and shapes inspired by Abstract Expressionism, Italian Renaissance painters, and 18th-century French painters. Collazo's paintings express his ongoing fascinations with real and imagined realms, harmony and healing, the creation of life, and spiritual awakening. "I want to put everything in my paintings...", the artist said, "constantly invent new forms, employ every color and shade I can concoct, vary my surface, create new textures and use collage, or rather appliqué elements I make myself."

Museum Hours: *Wednesday – Sunday 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM.*

LAAP GOES TO OAXACA

From February 15th through the 23rd, 20 TMA members toured Oaxaca, Mexico. With the expert guidance and planning of Stevie Mack and David Andres, we were able to experience the region's cuisine, culture and both traditional and contemporary art. We stayed in at the El Parador Monte Carmelo Hotel, conveniently located in the heart of the historic district of the UNESCO designated Colonial City of Oaxaca. This enabled us to walk to many local galleries, museums, shops, restaurants, and markets.

Within Oaxaca City, we visited the Benito Juarez Market, San Pablo Cultural Center, Manuel Bravo Photography Museum, Manuel Garcia Dias Gallery, Textile Museum, Contemporary Art Museum, and the Museo de los Pintores of Oaxaqueñosca (MUPO).



(Left to right) Benito Juarez Market mural and a exhibit at the Textile Museum.

We also had the opportunity to witness a local wedding, a carnival parade and other celebrations (like a Quinceañera complete with fireworks, a band and a parade!).



Throughout our stay, we visited the homes and studios of traditional and contemporary artists, as well as local galleries. The artists included woodcarvers, weavers and ceramicists, painters, photographers and print makers. It was fascinating to see how each artist applied his or her unique perspective, interests, experience, skills, and technique to create a one-of-a-kind work of art using a particular medium.

Woodcarving

In San Augustin de las Juntas, the woodcarver Agustín Curz Prudencio and his family members gave a demonstration of their craft, detailing each aspect of production. By teaching Oaxacan woodcarving skills to his children, along with his daughter's boyfriend, Agustín is continuing his family's legacy and helping ensure this artistic tradition survives for generations to come.



LAAP GOES TO OAXACA



In San Martin Tilcajete, another woodcarving village, we had lunch in the home and studio of Zeny and Reyna Fuentes. Their children and nephew demonstrated how a third generation of the family is working together to produce this traditional craft.

Ceramics

The studio/home of ceramicist Enedina Vasquez is located in the Village of Santa Maria Atzompa. She uses a variety of colors created from earth pigments and various clays to create “paints” to decorate her intricately detailed sculptural pieces.



In San Pablo Huitzo, we visited the studio of ceramic artist Adan Paredes, whose large-scale installations have earned him international recognition. His beautiful home, designed in a style befitting a former architecture student, was the site of a luncheon for our entire group.

Magdalena Pedro Martinez is a physician and ceramicist from the village San Bartolo Coyotepec, an area known worldwide for its production of stunning black pottery. At her home/studio, Magdalena demonstrated how she creates and fires female figures wearing detailed traditional Oaxacan dresses.



LAAP GOES TO OAXACA

Weaving

At the home and studio of rug weaver Nelson Perez Mendoza in the Village of Teotitlán del Valle, we saw demonstrations of how the wool used in the rugs produced by his family is carded, spun, dyed with natural materials and then woven into exquisite textiles.



Photography

In Oaxaca City, we visited the home and studio of photographer Cecilia Salcedo whose dramatic images capture the beauty of the natural world. For eight years, she also was the director of the Centro Fotográfico Manuel Álvarez Bravo.



While visiting San Pablo Huitzo, we stopped at the home and studio of Marietta Bernstorff and Antonio Turok. Turok had an extensive career as a photo journalist and Bernstorff, a partner of the late Chicano photographer Louis Carlos Bernal, is the founder of Mujeres Artistas y el Maíz (MAMAZ) Collective, a group of women artists in Mexico and the United States.



LAAP GOES TO OAXACA

Painting and Printmaking

At the Mano Magica Gallery in Oaxaca City, Alejandro Martinez demonstrated using Grana Cochinilla and other art techniques in paintings,



while Cecilio Sanchez showed how he works on amate paper with conchinilla, watercolor and gold leaf.



In the Village of Atzompa, we visited the studio/home of painter Jose “Eddie” Martinez whose current work is influenced by his interest in fashion depicted in 1930s and 1940s magazines and lotteria imagery.



At the home/studio of painter Raul Herrera in Oaxaca City, we learned how his interest in birds, nature, and Asian philosophy – as well as his concerns about the environment – are revealed in his work.

In San Pablo Huitzo we visited the home studio of painter Enrique Flores Gonzales for a demonstration of the printmaking process. Flores, who was mentored by the late great master of contemporary Mexican art, Rudolfo Morales, is committed to providing guidance and access to his equipment to the next generation of Oaxacan artists.



LAAP GOES TO OAXACA

When we visited the studio of Jarol Moreno in San Bartolo Coyotepe, we also saw the work of Guillermo Pons and Miguel Angel Mateo Lopez. All three are contemporary landscape painters.



This painting was completed by Jarol Moreno during our visit.



Guillermo Pons' work often depict night scapes - his favorite time of day.



Miguel Lopez's oil paintings are heavily textured. .

Archeology and History

A visit to the Monte Albán pre-Colombian archeological site and Museum allowed us to view the remains of a great political and economic center of Zapotec civilization.



LAAP GOES TO OAXACA

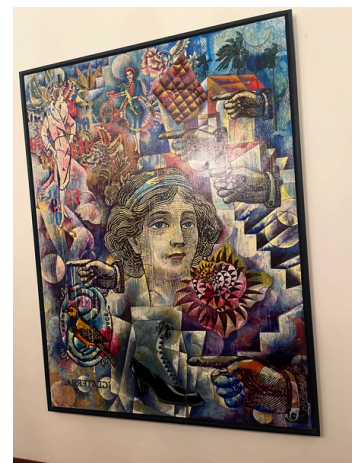
We visited the village of Ocotlan and home of the famous Oaxacan educator, painter, and philanthropist, Rudolfo Morales. A painting by Morales hangs in the lobby at the Tucson Museum of Art. His family home and gallery have undergone renovations as have the Exconvento Santo Domingo church and museum. Funds generated by Morales and his Foundation are responsible for numerous restoration projects in Oaxaca.



Our excursions included the Francisco Toledo Cultural Center in the village of San Augustin Etla.



In the evening, the group enjoyed a farewell dinner at the home of gallerist, Nancy Mayagoitia and her husband, Gomez Sandoval. It was a wonderful opportunity to view their extensive art collection and hacienda.



LATIN AMERICAN CUISINE IN TUCSON

By Susan Stone Hayes

We love celebrating all aspects of Latin American culture and fortunately Tucson offers venues to experience different cuisines from many Latin American countries and traditions.

David and Julia Andres, who just returned from the LAAP trip to Oaxaca, love going to La Frida at 7230 E. 22nd Street. Recognized as among the top 100 restaurants in the United States this small, no reservations spot offers beautiful, elegantly prepared Oaxacan dishes that richly reward the patient diner.



Mojo Cuban Kitchen and Rum Bar at 1929 East Grant Road is a light, bright venue with live Latin jazz on Friday nights. I found their black beans really tasty, accompanying the many classic dishes. They also offer a lovely selection of desserts.



If you are going to Medicine Man Gallery, consider stopping by Inca's Peruvian Cuisine in the same shopping center at Kolb and Sunrise. They also offer musical accompaniment in the evening to enjoy with dishes that represent the many different regions of the country from seafood to curries, as well as the classic yucca fries that we find all over Latin cuisine.



I have yet to try the Puerto Rican restaurant near the Rogue theater, please let us know if you have. Here's to more exploring all the many facets of Latin American culture!

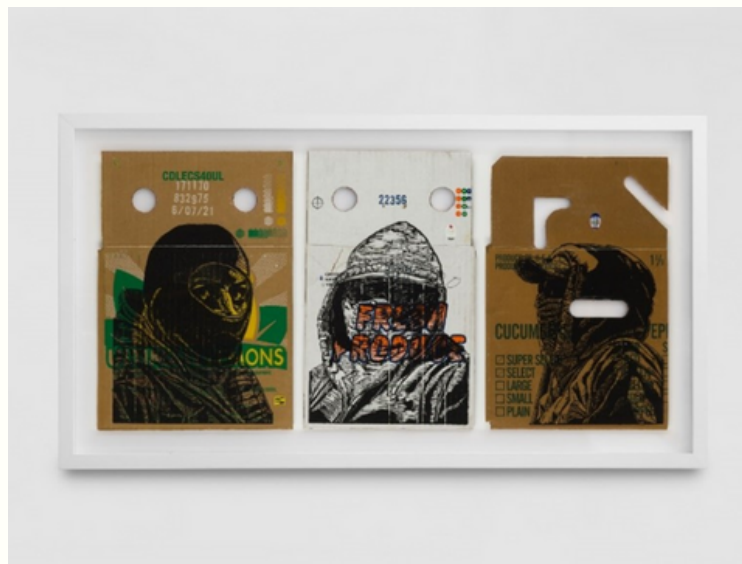
Salut!

FUTURE LAAP/TMA EVENTS

Ya Hecho: Readymade in the Borderlands

July 3 - November 30

Since LAAP is a sponsor, we will have
a fall event in conjunction with this exhibit.
The date is to be decided.



Ya Hecho: Readymade in the Borderlands presents new and recent work by 17 contemporary artists from both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border, highlighting artists' engagements with the distinctive material culture of a region persistently underrepresented in U.S. American institutional narratives. Chicano artists of earlier generations authored a legacy practice of improvisatory assemblage of found objects, a practice often referred to as *rasquachismo*. Dialoguing with this history, *Ya Hecho*—or “already made”—proposes that a new generation of Borderlands artists is taking up the legacy of the Chicano readymade to create sculptural objects and installation works that meditate on the Borderlands and its materials. These works often present research-based inquiries into the region’s landscapes, histories, and contemporary challenges. This exhibition is guest curated by Rigoberto Luna.

Image credit: Narsiso Martinez, Unnumbered Portraits 3, 2022, linocut prints on found produce boxes. Museum Purchase. Funds Provided by Latin American Art Patrons, Sue and Maurice Nieland, and David and Julia Andres, 2024.11

OUT AND ABOUT

At the Center for Creative Photography

The UofA MFA graduate exhibition opening reception will be held on May 1 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. Among the students exhibiting their work is Vanessa Saavedra whose studio LAAP members visited in January. Vanessa's graduate exhibit is focused on the many women residing in Mexico and along the border whose murders have remained unsolved.



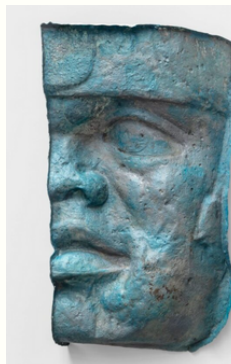
Enlight 145, a painting by Vanessa Saavedra that reflects her experience living along the border between Mexico and the United States.

ASU Art Museum

Mariana Castillo Deball: "The Flames Leave a Feathered Markon the Clay Spider in the Chamber of Ash and Clay"

Through June 29, 2025

This is the first solo museum presentation for internationally celebrated Mexican artist Mariana Castillo Deball (Germany, b.Mexico 1975) in Arizona. The exhibition features a newly commissioned installation of seven hand-built, pit-fired stoneware ceramics resembling natural and manufactured items – from spiders and turtles to altars and backpacks.



OUT AND ABOUT

ASU Art Museum

“Chicano/a/x Prints and Graphics: Selections from the Hispanic Research Center’s Collection, 1980–2010”

Through June 29, 2025

This exhibit showcases a partnership between ASU’s Hispanic Research Center (HRC) and ASU Art Museum. It brings together works from the 1980s to the 2010s drawn from the HRC’s dynamic collection. This year-long exhibition pays homage to the ideals of the Chicano Movement of the 1960s and 70s, and expands upon them using prints as the medium. Presented in two parts, this unique exhibition underscores how Chicano/a/x artists have used prints and graphics to build community, engage with social concerns, and interrogate shifting notions of political and cultural identity over time.”



Cocina Jaiteca by Larry Yanez

MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS

Nancy McCluskey-Moore

Communications

Nancy holds a BS in English/education from the University of Missouri, MA degrees in media design and instructional systems design from Arizona State University, certification in marketing communications from University of California San Diego and certification in fundraising from the Indiana University School of Philanthropy. Since 1996, she has been accredited by the International Association of Business Communicators.

She spent 10 years as an instructional systems designer on teams developing training simulators for the US Navy and FAA. She then worked for more than 30 years as a marketing and communications professional in the healthcare and computer software industries. As the development director for Ronald McDonald House of San Francisco, Nancy collaborated with physicians and community leaders on a wide variety of successful fundraising campaigns.

Nancy's community service work includes currently serving as the director of communications for SaddleBrooke Community Outreach (SBCO). She has served as director of communications for Friends of SaddleBrooke Libraries, tracked consignments for the Tucson Museum of Art League's annual Treasure House fundraising event, chaired the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women campaign in southern Arizona, the San Diego Super Cities Walk for the Multiple Sclerosis Society, and Tuffets for Tots for the Ronald McDonald House at Stanford. She is also an artist. Since 1982, Nancy has made and sold baskets, wearable art, furniture and decorative objects through galleries and craft fairs as well as donating her work for charitable auctions.



Nancy, an inveterate shopper, purchased a painting from Miguel Lopez while in Oaxaca.

NOTA BENE

MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS

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