



FALL 2025



LATIN AMERICAN ART PATRONS

A Curator's Tour of Frida's Garden

Friday, October 17th at 10:30 am



In late April, work began at the Tucson Botanical Garden to construct the new, permanent exhibit, Frida's Garden. This newly designed space will encapsulate the spirit of artist Frida Kahlo's garden in Mexico City. If you've had the good fortune to visit her home, La Casa Azul, you will be familiar with the famous "Frida-Blue" walls. Some of these will be replicated, along with a scaled-down version of the Aztec-inspired pyramid and Toad Pond. Plantings in the new garden will honor the original, but with a Southwestern twist.

Following the tour, enjoy a no-host lunch at the Café.

To RSVP for this event, (we need a headcount for the no host luncheon) send an email to Stevie Mack at steviemack83@gmail.com



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

SUE ERICKSON NIELAND



Our family gets together once a year for a week in the summer. It's always a challenge to plan since we are three generations, constantly in a state of flux. We share the planning of menus, games, and shared activities for a group ranging in age from 9 to 80 years old and it can be demanding! I'm sure this metaphor is not lost on you – the constant change at TMA and within the Latin American Art Patrons. Every year presents a new set of challenges and I'm extremely proud of the way our membership and board have responded. We may be the smallest of the affinity groups but we are definitely the most forward thinking!

Our Annual Meeting in April was well attended! It was a lovely day to socialize and we collected many objects to stock our booth at the Artisan's Market in November. We will continue to

ask for donations in September and October for this biennial fundraising event. We also introduced four new members of the Board: Andres Caballero, Susan Hayes, Jennifer Saracino, and Vanessa Saavedra. I hope you enjoy learning more about three of them in this newsletter.

LAAP is Presenting Sponsor of the exhibition *Ya Hecho: Readymade in the Borderlands* which opened in July. The exhibition, initially conceived by Kristopher Driggers, is an extremely important statement for those of us so close to La Frontera. Our members were included in all the opening events and we will have another event in conjunction with *Ya Hecho* in November. Artworks by board members Andres Caballero and Vanessa Saavedra were included in the exhibition and board member and docent Kathi Sanders led tours of the exhibition in July. Additionally, an artwork that LAAP helped purchase became the “face” of this exhibition.

In October we will join a curator-led tour of the new “Frida's Garden” at the Tucson Botanical Gardens and in December Robyn Waters will provide a tour of Mexico through its textiles. I look forward to being with you in the fall!

Saludos,

Sue Erickson Nieland

At our Annual Meeting in April, members were able to socialize and donate items for the LAAP booth at the Artisan's Market in November.



FUTURE LAAP/TMA EVENTS

LAAP Event

Artist Talk: Vicente Telles

Saturday, November 1 at 11:00 am

Followed by a meet the artist gathering for LAAP members



Always looking for ways to push boundaries, his style has evolved to include various reinterpretations of traditional Catholic and cultural iconography, which is evident in his social commentary retablos and his ongoing border culture series. His experimentation with different mediums such as textiles, high quality paper(s), found and repurposed materials are used to create more contemporary pieces.

Vicente Telles is a Santero (painter of saints) and Cultural Iconographer who is driven by the desire to honor the culture and traditions of his native New Mexico. He began painting traditional retablos (saints on carved wood) using natural pigments created from clays and minerals on homemade gesso, which is then sealed with an archival varnish.

To Telles, being a Santero and Cultural Iconographer is so much more than painting; “being a Santero and Cultural Iconographer means being a teacher, a student, and an observer of tradition and maker of the contemporary.” In this way, his traditional and contemporary pieces, allow Telles to do his part in keeping his heritage and centuries of tradition alive and vibrant.

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Telles’ work is included in the current TMA exhibit: ***Ya Hecho: Readymade in the Borderlands*** which 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*.

Following Telles’ presentation, LAAP members are invited to gather in the Larkin Courtyard for an hour “meet the artist” event with small bites and drinks.

Details about how to RSVP for this event will be emailed in October.

LAAP Booth at TMA Artisan’s Market Friday, November 21 through Sunday, November 23



Our biennial fundraiser in conjunction with TMA’s Artisan Market will be held on November 21 through 23. We are still looking for donations, so as you edit your collections of art and folk art, please keep us in mind. We will be picking up items after September 1st.

This event also requires lots of volunteers. We anticipate two sessions of marking the items as well as staffing shifts over the three-day sale. 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!

To offer donations for pick up or to volunteer for the event, contact Sue Nieland via email: suzqnieland@gmail.com or text 712-490-1538. And thanks for your support!



LAAP Event

Guest Lecture with Robyn Waters

Frida Kahlo's Wardrobe: A Photographic Journey through the Artist's Life

Saturday, December 6 at 2:00 pm at TMA



Come along on a metaphorical journey to explore the cultural influences that informed the life of Magdalena Carmen Frida Kahlo y Calderon, better known as Frida Kahlo. Robyn Waters, former Vice President of Trend and Design for Target Stores, will share her personal photos and memories from a 2020 trip to Mexico where she learned about the myth and reality of this larger-than-life acclaimed female artist.

Starting in Mexico City, we'll explore the urban scape where she was born, broken, bloomed, loved and died. We'll visit her homes and the places that inspired or formed her, including Xochimilco and the San Ildefonso school. We'll travel to the balmy Isthmus of Tehauntepec in

Southern Oaxaca to the towns that inspired her iconic look: the long skirt, square cut embroidered and beribboned blouse, lace underskirt, floral headpiece and the jewelry—the traditional dress of the Zapotec women of the region. We'll meet the textile, embroidery, beading, lace making artisans—women and muxe/transgender men—and see them at their craft, utilizing ancient techniques to create original, indigenous fashion as well as modern day works of art. Through her personal travel photos, Robyn will share the fashions, textiles, food, furnishings, art, and cultural traditions of the regions of Mexico that gave us Frida Kahlo.

Details about how to RSVP for this event will be emailed in November.

LAAP Artists Exhibition

Lenore Carrington Gallery at Mexican Consulate, Tucson

February 2 through March 21, 2026

Inauguration Ceremony: February 12, 2026

Members of LAAP who are artists will be invited to submit their work for a special exhibition at the Mexican Consulate in Tucson. In October information will be sent to our members about how to submit images of their work. If you know of artists who might want to participate in this exhibit, encourage them to join LAAP and TMA!

OUT AND ABOUT

All Souls Procession

Friday, November 7th through Sunday, November 9th



Tucson's Dia de Los Muertos-inspired event, The All Souls Procession, is one of the most significant, inclusive, and authentic public ceremonies in North America. It began in 1990 as a ceremonial performance by local artist Susan Johnson, who was grieving the loss of her father. Each year, over 150,000 participants gather in downtown Tucson for a two-mile, human-powered procession that culminates in the ceremonial burning of "The Urn." This symbolic urn contains the hopes, memories, and offerings of the public, honoring those who have passed. Myriad altars, performances, installation art, and creative collaborations infuse the procession with a powerful sense of remembrance and celebration of life.

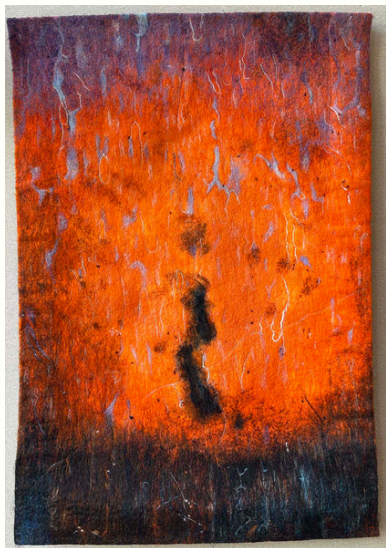
For more information, visit <https://www.visittucson.org/events/festivals-and-annual-events/all-souls-procession/>



UPCOMING EVENTS

Visual Arts Gallery, Pima Community College West Campus
Gary Goldberg, Felted Textiles and Color Photography
September 22 – October 31, 2025

Artist reception on September 24, 4:00-6:00 pm in the Visual Arts Gallery, 2nd Level of Building A on the West Campus. Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Friday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

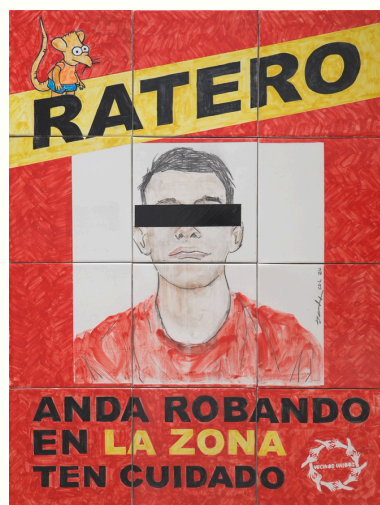


Gary Goldberg lives and works in Berkeley, CA and is a Professor Emeritus of Art at Midwestern State University, where he taught for 27 years. He earned his BFA at Arizona State University and his MFA at the University of Nebraska. Professor Goldberg was awarded a grant from the Rotary Foundation international exchange program. He also was the recipient of an Emerging Artist Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Professor Goldberg's photographs have been published in numerous magazines, including Texas Monthly, Harpers & Queen, and American Profile. His photo credits in books include The Family of Women,

Exploring Color Photography, Photographic Possibilities, Light and Lens: Photography in the Digital Age, Creative Photography: Camera and Darkroom Manual, and Bonfire of Roadmaps. Public collections in which Professor Goldberg's photographs appear include the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. and the Photography Collection in the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas.

Louis Carlos Bernal Gallery, Pima Community College West Campus
Exhibit 1: Rubén Ortiz-Torez and 3B Collective from Los Angeles, CA
August 25 - October 10, 2025



"Ratero" ceramic tile mural
48 x 52"

Artist reception on September 18, from 5:00-7:00 pm with a presentation by members of the 3B Collective from Los Angeles at 6:00 pm. Gallery hours are 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Thursday and 10:00 am to 3:00 pm on Friday.

Rubén Ortiz-Torres is Professor of Art, MFA program at University of California San Diego. An MFA graduate of Cal Arts, Rubén was born in Mexico City, Mexico, on 1964 and live and works in Los Angeles, CA.

His work explores the social and aesthetic transformations related to cross-cultural exchange and globalization.

UPCOMING EVENTS

A plurality of parallel strategies spring from the various media he explores. His work is often centered around adaptation processes in specific and widely varied contexts and the subsequent transformations that they invoke—as signs and objects that constantly change their shape and meaning. The work of Ortiz Torres includes painting, photograph, video, collage, multimedia, and commercial products that range from baseball caps to pick-up trucks, all of which question the veneration of the art object and the degradation of folk culture and the vernacular. Since the early 1980s, he has produced a wide-ranging body of work and is associated with the development of a specifically Mexican form of postmodernism. He exhibits at the OMR Gallery in Mexico City, one of the best galleries in Mexico City. He Just had a one person exhibit at the Wallace Gallery at the Columbia University in New York.

3B Collective is a Los Angeles-based group of artists, educators, curators and designers. The original members met while doing their undergraduate studies at UCLA. 3B Collective's works reflect their commitment to providing an inclusive platform that encourages pride and recognition of the different facets of their communities. Their work seeks to make the arts more accessible by addressing social inequalities, creating public works through shared resources, and providing peer support and mentorship for BIPOC artists.

Louis Carlos Bernal Gallery, Pima Community College West Campus

Exhibit 2: *In the Skin We Live In: Paintings, Prints, Photography, Drawings*

Invited guest artists: Miguel Caseo (Mexico City) and Ramon San Miquel (Spain and Oaxaca)

August 25 - October 10, 2025

Other artists included: Sidney Goodman, Amy Elkins, Roy Blakey, James Bidgood, Jack Balas, John Arenault, Laurie Simmons, R. Brooks, Bailey Doogan, Craig Cully, George Strasburger, Shen Wei, Joel Peter-Witkins, Judy Miller/Bailey Doogan (collaboration), Daniel Sprick, Jimmy DeSana, and others.

Miguel Caseo lives in Mexico City he is a visual artist, cultural manager and museographer. He holds a degree in Plastic Arts and a master degree in Information Design from Universidad de las Américas Puebla. The technological-digital influence and media connectivity as entities that promote shared intimacy, are thematic axes of his current production. His work has been exhibited in Mexico, United States and Germany. Since 2019 he is deputy director of the Museum of the Foreign Affairs, in Mexico City; in 2017 he founded Atelier Mesones and, in 2020, lagalerí_a, independent projects focused on the teaching, reflection and dissemination of visual arts.

Ramón Sanmiguel was born in Barcelona, Spain in 1973. He holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery, a profession that he abandoned to dedicate himself to paintings and drawing. He lives and works in both Spain and Oaxaca, MX. He focuses his artistic work on women of prostitution to paint and draw. Small delicate provocative drawings and watercolors will be exhibited.

Museum of Contemporary Art Tucson

Living With Injury

September 5, 2025 – January 2026

East Wing Galleries

Living With Injury is an exhibition that pays homage to the predominantly Mexican American community members whose uniquely Tucson methods were remarkably successful in fighting some of Tucson's most powerful defense industries responsible for contaminating water sources, causing severe illness within communities on the southside of Tucson in the 1980s. The exhibition is curated by Mexican American Heritage and History Museum Co-Director Alisha Vasquez and Dr. Sunaura Taylor of the Disabled Ecologies Lab at UC Berkeley, and features work by local artists and researchers who have lasting connections to this history.



Museum of Contemporary Art Tucson

Fernando Palma Rodríguez: *Tlazohuelmanaz* (offering of love)

October 17, 2025 – January 2026

Great Hall



Tlazohuelmanaz (offering of love) is a solo exhibition by artist Fernando Palma Rodríguez that features a series of newly commissioned robotic sculptures that interweave art, nature, and technology. The first solo museum exhibition of Rodríguez's work to be presented in the context of the United States-Mexico Borderlands, *Tlazohuelmanaz*

explores shared issues like climate, water, and the care for Indigenous knowledge, which impact both the artist's home and community in Milpa Alta, Mexico as well as communities in the Sonoran Desert.

Rodríguez's sculptural environments transform everyday materials like aluminum cans, cardboard, comales (cooking pans), masa, salt, and laundry, to create figurative sculptures like coyotes, rattlesnakes, rivers, and rain. These sculptures are animated with idiosyncratic movements generated by custom-built hardware that combines mechanical, electronic, and computer engineering systems, and reflects an approach to technology that decentralizes human agency and underscores interdependent relationships with nature. Combining ancient and contemporary technologies with organic material and robotic parts, Rodríguez generates new, hybridized sculptures and narratives that are in conversation with the complexity of life in the borderlands.

MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS



Andres Caballero

Originally from Mexico City and currently based in Tucson, Andres' research as a visual artist explores the complex realities of migration, surveillance, and marginalization across the US/Mexico border. He interrogates dominant narratives imposed by mass media and institutions, asking how visual technologies are designed for control, and how they can be reclaimed to foster agency and social justice. Through ethnographic research and constant travel along the borderlands, he aims to present these regions not as sites of conflict, but as places of community and cultural heritage.

As a final-year MFA candidate in Photo, Video & Imaging at the School of Art, he initially examined Mexican wrestling along the borderlands, culminating in a solo exhibition at the Lionel Rombach Gallery featuring photography, screenprints, and 360° VR videos. Rather than depicting Lucha Libre merely as spectacle, the exhibition emphasized its significance as a living tradition fostering belonging, reaffirming cultural identity, and creating visibility and pride for Mexican families.



Vanessa Estefanía Saavedra

Born in Jalisco, Mexico and raised in Heroica Nogales, Sonora, along the U.S.-Mexico border, Vanessa's paintings and drawings give voice to the silenced lives of women across Latin America, addressing themes ranging from individual victims of harassment to those of femicide. Through her work, she explores oppression, absence, lack of legal action, and, more recently, the memorialization of lives lost to gender-based violence.

Her work is deeply influenced by her Mexican-American identity and her perspective on the current socio-political environment, particularly in relation to

systemic patriarchy and femicide. Her ongoing project, En Memoria Digna, centers on collective remembrance through intimate, object-based memorial installations that honor women who were victims of femicide in Nogales, Sonora. The project was first exhibited at the Center for Creative Photography in Tucson as part of her MFA thesis and has since been covered by multiple news outlets in Sonora, Mexico. Since 2017, Vanessa has exhibited her work both nationally and internationally.

MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS



Jennifer Saracino

Jennifer R. Saracino is an assistant professor of Art History at the University of Arizona. She completed her joint PhD in Art History and Latin American Studies at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. Her research focuses on Indigenous cartographic traditions of Central Mexico, interactions between mendicant friars and Indigenous communities, and the impact of these exchanges on the visual culture of early colonial Mexico. Her work also investigates Nahua relationships to the natural and built environment as reflected in the visual culture of early colonial Mexico. Her work has appeared in the journals *Imago Mundi* and *Artl@s Bulletin* as well as the edited volume *Mapping Nature Across the Americas* (University of Chicago, 2020) and *Collective Creativity and Artistic Agency in Colonial Latin America* (University of Florida, 2023). She has a monograph on the Uppsala Map of Mexico-Tenochtitlan, the earliest map painted by Nahua artists after the Spanish invasion, under contract with University of Texas Press. Her research and scholarship have been supported with fellowships from the Huntington Library, the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library & Collection, the Newberry Library, the American Society for Environmental History, and the John Carter Brown Library.

NOTA BENE

MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS

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