

SPRING 2026



TUCSON MUSEUM of ART
AND HISTORIC BLOCK

Latin American Art Patrons

Annual Meeting & Party Thursday, April 30th, 5:00 to 7:00 pm



You are invited to an exclusive
Latin American Art Patrons
members-only event.

Our annual meeting will be held on April 30,
2026 from 5:00-7:00 pm
at Michael Kasser's Holualoa office
at 5780 Swan Road.

A private, curator-led tour of Mike's art
collection will be offered.

The event will be catered by
Gallery of Food and offer a tasting of wines
from the Valle de Guadalupe of Baja California.

Cost is \$30 per member.

Please [click here to RSVP by April 27th](#)



IN THIS ISSUE

MESSAGE FROM THE
COMMITTEE CHAIR

RECAP OF RECENT
LAAP EVENTS

EXHIBITS AT TMA

WHAT'S AHEAD:
UPCOMING LAAP EVENTS

IN THE TMA COLLECTION

OUT AND ABOUT

LETTER FROM THE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

We had a wonderfully lively spring season of events celebrating our LAAP member artists as well as major collectors of Latin American Art.

We will wrap up the program year with our Annual Meeting at Michael Kasser's office touring his extraordinary personal collection of Ancient American art and artifacts as well as other unique art he has collected. Wines and food of Mexico will be featured. At the annual meeting we will be electing new members of your leadership committee and saying farewell to long serving board members Kathi Sanders as well as student member Andres Caballero. We look forward to having you join us for this exceptional event.



We are looking forward to our executive director, Annie Breckenridge, announcing the new Latin American Curatorial Fellow in the next six weeks. Members of your Leadership Committee are assisting in the search process. They report that the number and quality of candidates is really impressive!

The newly formed Travel and Events subcommittee will be headed by David Andres and Stevie Mack and they are working on some fun and fascinating events for the 2026/2027 year. We will be traveling to explore contemporary and traditional Sonoran art museums and culture with local artists and collectors thanks to the local connections of our members. And we will have a very festive holiday party at the home of a major collector of Folk Art, so make sure your membership is up to date and we'll see you there!

Susan Stone Hayes

Susan Stone Hayes
Chair, LAAP Leadership Committee



OH THE FUN WE HAD!

February 2026

On February 12th LAAP members, TMA representatives, and their guests attended the opening of *"The Latin American Art Patrons: Primera Exhibición."* This exhibition of works created by 17 LAAP members was held at Galería Leonora Carrington in the Mexican Consulate in Tucson from February 12 to March 20. During the opening, the Mexican Consul in Tucson, Fernando Adrián Sánchez Roldán, and Susan Stone Hayes, LAAP Leadership Committee Chair, welcomed guests and encouraged them to view the art, enjoy light refreshments, and meet the artists whose work graced the gallery.

LAAP owes "muchas gracias" to Vanessa Saavedra, David Andres and Julia Andres for their work on this exhibit. Vanessa communicated with the artists and coordinated delivery and pick up of items in the exhibit, while David coordinated with the Consulate. Then David and Julia spent three weekends installing the submitted artwork to create a coherent exhibit. The result was well received by those who attended the opening.



The Mexican Consul in Tucson, Fernando Adrián Sánchez Roldán, and Susan Stone Hayes, LAAP Leadership Committee Chair, welcomed guests to the exhibit.



A total of 17 artists submitted their work to the The "Latin American Art Patrons: Primera Exhibición."



The Latin American Art Patrons: Primera Exhibición” opening was well attended with many commenting positively about the quality and variety of the artwork on display.



“Crossing the Border” by Christina Cardenas, a piece painted with gouache and acrylic on bark/amate paper, was included in the exhibit.

March 2026

On March 4th a special reception for LAAP members and their guests was held at the *Arte Gráficas De Oaxaca* exhibit in the Louis Carlos Bernal Gallery at Pima Community College. The exhibit, presented in collaboration with the Consulate of Mexico in Tucson, featured graphic art by 50 major Mexican artists, selected from the private collection of Nancy Majagoitia and Alfonso Gomez Sandoval of Oaxaca, Mexico. Those who went on the LAAP tour to Oaxaca in February 2025 will recall hearing Nancy’s lecture about contemporary Oaxacan artists and visiting her and Alfonso’s home for dinner.



David Andres, Director of the Louis Carlos Bernal Gallery, provided LAAP members with background about the artists included in the exhibit, such as their influences, relationship with Nancy Majagoitia and connection to other members of the Oaxacan artistic community.



Diane Dale, Stevie Mack, and Mike Grassinger had a chance to chat at the Oaxacan graphic art exhibit.



Julia Andres and Marilyn Joyce shared impressions of the artwork included in the exhibit at the Louis Carlos Bernal Gallery.

March 2026

On March 21st, LAAP members went to Tucson Desert Art Museum to view *Cruzando La Línea, Contemporary Art in the Borderlands*. This exhibit brought together the work of distinguished artists Alejandro Macias, Vanessa Saavedra, David Taylor, and Alfred J. Quiroz in paintings, photographs, and multimedia works that shed light on lived realities of the borderlands.

Alex and Vanessa provided LAAP members with commentary and a tour of the exhibit. Afterwards, a no-host luncheon was held at Poco and Mom's Cantina.



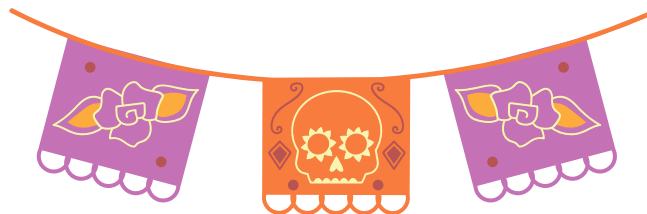
Vanessa Saavedra (right) and Alejandro Macias (left) provided commentary and led LAAP members on a tour of the "Cruzando La Linea" exhibit.



The "Cruzando La Linea" exhibit included these works by Alejandro Macias. The painting on the left is "Border Agent II" and "Border Agent III" is on the right.



Vanessa Saaveda's work in the exhibit included "Estamos" (left) and "Vida Fronteriza 4 (8:04am)" right).



EVENTS AT TMA

Currently at TMA



Another Frame: Lola Álvarez Bravo, Mariana Yampolsky, Graciela Iturbide, Flor Garduño

On view in Kenneth and Judith Riskind/Peter Salomon and Patricia Carr Morgan Gallery

“The photographer’s work is to synthesize, to make powerful and poetic work from the everyday.” Reflecting on her own practice, Graciela Iturbide articulates an approach that resonates across the work of the photographers featured in *Another Frame: Lola Álvarez Bravo, Mariana Yampolsky, Graciela Iturbide, Flor Garduño*. The installation offers a glimpse into three generations of women, each working at the intersection of mythology and reality, heritage and modernity, past and present, observation and imagination. The images, all of which were produced in twentieth-century Mexico, transform everyday subjects into lyrical meditations that are at once deeply personal and distinctly communal.

Coming Soon to TMA

Arizona Biennial 2026



This is the Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block’s longstanding survey of contemporary art in Arizona. The juried exhibition—first organized in 1948 as an annual exhibit that shifted to its current two-year format in 1980—showcases artwork from some of the most innovative and imaginative artists in the state. The 2026 iteration will open to the public on Friday, May 22, 2026, and will be accompanied by a series of public programs.

Arizona artists over 18 years of age working in any media are invited to submit work(s) that investigate the intersections of art and place or heritage—however those themes resonate in their practice.

For each biennial, a new juror is chosen to select the works and create a cohesive exhibition that offers a snapshot of artistic creativity in Arizona. The Arizona Biennial 2026 juror is Julie Rodrigues Widholm, a trailblazing cultural leader and advocate for inclusivity in the arts. As executive director of the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) at UC Berkeley, she shapes the institution’s strategic and artistic vision, leveraging art and film to inspire cultural transformation.

Upcoming LAAP Events

October – A new exhibit in the Kasser Gallery at TMA will be opening in August. We are planning a special tour for LAAP members on October 1st, from 4:00 to 5:00 pm with a happy hour to follow.



November – LAAP is currently planning a 7 night bus trip to Hermosillo, Sonora and Alamos. As soon as details are finalized, information will be sent to our members.



December – The LAAP holiday party will be held at the home of a Mexican folk-art collector.



As the details of upcoming events are finalized, you will be notified through fliers and the fall newsletter sent to your email box.



La Serena (The Mermaid) by Agustin Cruz Prudencio

by Stevie Mack

Agustin Cruz Prudencio lives in San Agustin de las Juntas, a village outside of Oaxaca City Oaxaca Mexico. The village, is a typical Mexican village with the population of 7,000. What is not typical is that it is also the home of a family of artists that specialize in the creation of wood carvings.

Upon a visit to Oaxaca City, one learns that most of the popular art of the region is produced in villages that specialize in one medium, such as carving wooden pieces, weaving wool rugs or creating ceramic pieces. It is unusual to find an artist that creates work outside of the traditional crafts of the villages.

Agustin's family settled in San Agustin de las Juntas when he was a young boy of 5 years. He spoke the indigenous language of Mixe from the rural mountainous village where he was born. Over time he learned Spanish in school and completed his education. From a young age he showed an interest in learning the craft of his father. Under his watchful eye, Agustin began carving small figures and developing his skills using a machete and a collection of small knives and chisels.

The tradition of woodcarving in Oaxaca primarily consists of small family workshops, where the men carve, and the women do the painting. Using a machete and a variety of smaller knives, the pieces are carved and assembled, if more than one piece of wood is used. Wood from the copal tree is preferred by the carvers because it is soft and relatively easy to carve when it is green. As it dries, the wood cures and becomes very strong. After the carving is completed, someone, usually a novice carver, will sand the pieces under the direction of an adult. After the surface is smooth and all joints are concealed (if the pieces are assembled), the works are ready for painting. Along with the carvers, the women of the family, usually a wife or sister, demonstrate their talent by painting the pieces with colorful designs. Small delicate brushes are used with acrylic paint to achieve the incredible details associated with this art form.

Today Agustin participates in competitions throughout Mexico and has earned many commendations for his work. He has also been a participant in the prestigious International Folk Art Market in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He is also featured in prominent Mexican Folk Art books including the prestigious *Masters of Mexico, Vol. 2* published in 2012, *Masters of Oaxaca, Days of the Dead, 2011*, *Grandes Maestros de Arte Popular de Iberoamerica (Latin America)*, published in 2014 by Banamex, and *Days of the Dead Folk Art*, authored by Mack and Williams, 2015. As a result, he is now internationally known for his whimsical Nacimientos (Nativity Scenes), saints, angels, figures riding bicycles, animated animals and highly regarded as a master carver.

La Serena (The Mermaid) in the Tucson Museum of Art collection is an example of his award-winning work. Carved from the wood of a copal tree and painted with acrylic paints, it offers museum visitors an opportunity to view work that represents 2nd and 3rd generation folk artists from Oaxaca.

In addition to advancing his own career, Agustin opened a workshop in his studio where he teaches young people in his village who are interested in learning the craft. The fruits of his labor are already in evidence in the work of his daughter Esmeralda Cruz Sosa and her husband Luis Valentine Rodriguez Garcia.

Agustin has participated in the TMA Spring Artisan Market for a number of years and the Museum shop also features his work.

The craft of Oaxacan woodcarving has changed dramatically over the 50 years. While grounded in tradition, Agustin's work is evidence of the creativity and innovation that continues to propel the popular arts of Oaxaca.

LOCAL EXHIBITIONS

**Pima Community College
Louis Carlos Bernal Gallery**

***Sustained Visions: James (Jim) Davis (1931-2016) -
Paintings & Prints, Joy Fox McGrew - Ceramic Sculpture.***

August 31 - October 9, 2026, Reception on Thursday September 17, 5:00 -7:00 pm

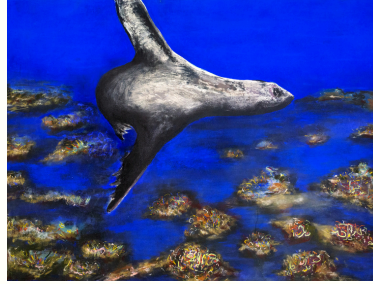
Jim lived and worked at Rancho Linda Vista in Oracle, AZ and was a professor of art at the UofA School of Art until his retirement. Joy Fox lives and maintains a ceramic studio at Rancho Linda Vista, Oracle, AZ.

Figures: Oscar Bernal, Alejandro Macias and Judith Stewart.

October 29 - December 11 2026, Reception Thursday, November 5, 5:00-7:00 pm

Paintings and drawings by Mexican artists Oscar Beranl (1945-2014) born in Nogales, Sonora, paintings by Alex Macias, Uof A Associate Professor of Art School of Art, figure sculptures in ceramic and bronze by Judy Stewart who lives and works at Rancho Linda Vista, Oracle, AZ.

Museo de Arte de Sonora
Hermosillo, Sonora Mexico
Sea of Cortez: David Andres



Sea Lion - Isla San Padero

Opening reception September 4, 2026, 5:00 - 9:00 pm. Exhibit runs through January 2027.
Essay and introduction by Olivia Miller, executive director of the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, Eugene, Oregon.

NOTA BENE

LAAP Leadership Committee 2026-27

David Andres, *Vice Chair*

Andres Caballero

Kathleen Collins

Ernesto Esquer

Susan Stone Hayes, *Chair*

Alejandro Macías

Stevie Mack

Nancy McCluskey-Moore, *Communications*

Sue Nieland, *Immediate Past President*

Sharon Oliver, *Treasurer*

Vanessa Saavedra

Kathi Sanders, *Secretary*

Jennifer Saracino

Debbie Sergi

Donna Whitman, *Membership*

Meg Jackson Fox, PhD, *TMA Chief of Curatorial and Convergent Practice
& Liaison with LAAP*