

516
ARTS

The US-Mexico Border: Place, Imagination, and Possibility

A two-part exhibition and series of public programs



WHEN: 516 ARTS: January 27– April 14, 2018
Albuquerque Museum: January 13 – April 15, 2018

RECEPTION: **Saturday, January 27, 2018:**
5-6pm: Member Preview/Walkthrough at 516 ARTS
6-8pm: Opening reception at 516 ARTS

See pages 2-3 for public programs with partners around Albuquerque.

WHERE: 516 ARTS, 516 Central Ave. SW, Downtown Albuquerque
Albuquerque Museum, 2000 Mountain Rd. NW, Old Town, Albuquerque

PUBLIC INFO: 516arts.org • albuquerquemuseum.org

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Acclaimed border exhibition from Los Angeles' Pacific Standard Time comes to 516 ARTS and the Albuquerque Museum, spurring expansive collaboration

516 ARTS, in partnership with the Albuquerque Museum, announces *The US-Mexico Border: Place, Imagination, and Possibility* curated by Dr. Lowery Stokes Sims. The group exhibition presents the work of over 40 designers and artists working along the US-Mexico border who are engaging with the intersections of culture that have developed in the region while considering the welfare and wellbeing of migrants and citizens who live there. The original exhibition is developed by and travels to Albuquerque from Los Angeles' Craft and Folk Art Museum where it is on view through January 7, 2018 for Pacific Standard Time Los Angeles/Latin America (PST LA/LA) 2017. The main exhibition in Albuquerque is hosted by 516 ARTS, and is being expanded into a collaboration with an additional exhibition site at the Albuquerque Museum and accompanying interdisciplinary public programs around the city.

The border has come to occupy an intellectual and an emotionally charged space as well as a territorial one. It exists within the geography of memory as much as being a place of transit and transformation. Much of the creative production around the border unearths ways in which artists, architects, designers and makers who live in border states negotiate two divided but interconnected realities. Although this exhibition was conceived before the topic of "building a wall" along the US-Mexico border re-emerged in media headlines, its relevance is more potent and instructive than ever before.

The contemporary artists in this exhibition explore the border as a physical reality (place), as a subject (imagination), and as a site for production and forward thinking solutions (possibility). While the selection largely focuses on work

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executed in the last two decades, it also includes objects by Chicano artists in California who came together in the 1970s and 1980s to address border issues in their work. The inclusion of artists from various disciplines, including design, architecture, sculpture, painting and photography, reflects the ways in which contemporary artists and designers themselves cross disciplinary borders.

Featured artists include: Tanya Aguiñiga, Pilar Agüero-Esparza & Hector Dio Mendoza, Haydee Alonso, Guillermo Bert, Elvira Bessudo, Margarita Cabrera, Cristina Celis, Teddy Cruz, Adrian Esparza, Carlota Espinoza, Jorge Diego Etienne, Andres Fonseca, Guillermo Galindo, Rupert García, Bob Haozous, Luis Jiménez, Douglas Kent Hall, Alejandra Antón Honorato, Jami Porter Lara, La Metropolitana, Tom Miller, Lorena Lazard, Andrés Lhima, Los Dos de Los (Yreina Cervantez & Leo Limón), Pablo López Luz, Delilah Montoya, Julio César Morales, Elizabeth Rustrian Ortega, Viviana Paredes, G.T. Pellizzi, Post Commodity, Daisy Quezada Ureña, Marcos Ramírez ERRE, Betsabeé Romero, Zinna Rudman, Mauricio Sáenz, Eduardo Sarabia, Agnes Seebass, Elizabeth Sisco, Louis Hock & David Avalos, Ray Smith, Studio Rael San Fratello, F. Van Derren Coke and Consuelo Jimenez Underwood.

Since the 1990s, the US-Mexico border has become an important site for creative exploration of issues related to emigration, immigration, labor conditions, intersections of identity and transformation. The US-Mexico border is often thought to include territory within 100 miles of the national boundaries of the two countries; however, this exhibition's parameters includes the whole of the ten US and Mexican states situated directly along the national boundaries. This allows the exhibition to acknowledge the persistence and survival of heritage and culture in the passing down of traditional skills and techniques within various communities and families on either side of the border.

"The border has been a contentious site for much longer than the current news cycle's focus on 'the wall,'" says curator Dr. Lowery Stokes Sims. "And though the exhibition has taken on a particular urgency in the current political environment, this project recognizes the border as a long-standing site of interdependence and connectivity, despite the painful divisions it causes. We celebrate the creativity and commitment of this selection of designers, artists and makers for whom the border is a lived experience." *The US-Mexico Border: Place, Imagination, and Possibility* demonstrates the humanity and distinct creative cultures along this contested territory and underscores the interconnectedness of the two countries that are in danger of being violently and destructively impacted by aggressive nationalism, policies of exclusion and racism.

A fully illustrated exhibition catalogue includes essay contributions by Michael Dear, Gustavo Leclerc, Kerry Doyle, Amalia Mesa-Bains, Jose Manuel Valenzuela Arce, Teddy Cruz & Fonna Forman and Jorge Gracia.

ABOUT THE CURATOR:

Dr. Lowery Stokes Sims, recently named one of the Most Influential Curators by *Artsy*, is the retired Curator Emerita at the Museum of Arts and Design. She served as executive director then president of The Studio Museum in Harlem and was on the education and curatorial staff of The Metropolitan Museum of Art. A specialist in modern and contemporary art, she is known for her particular expertise in the work of African, Latino, Native and Asian American artists. She has published extensively, has lectured nationally and internationally and has guest curated numerous exhibitions around the world. Sims holds a Ph.D. in Art History from the Graduate School of the City University of New York, and has received six honorary degrees.

PARTNERS:

Public programs around the city include activities in partnership with: The Guild Cinema, Humans of New Mexico, the National Hispanic Cultural Center, New Mexico Immigrant Law Center, the Outpost Performance Space, The Sanitary Tortilla Factory, The University of New Mexico American Studies Department, Art Museum, and School of Architecture Gallery.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Thursday, January 19, 5-8:30pm

Third Thursday Programs featuring the exhibitions *The US-Mexico Border: Place, Imagination, and Possibility* and *The Art of Politics*, at Albuquerque Museum

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Friday, January 26, 5-8pm

Opening Reception: *Interior Landscapes*

Presented by 516 ARTS and The Sanitary Tortilla Factory, at The Sanitary Tortilla Factory
(on view January 19 - February 16)

Saturday, January 27, 1pm

Guest Speaker: Curator Dr. Lowery Stokes Sims

Presented by 516 ARTS and Albuquerque Museum at Albuquerque Museum

Saturday, January 27, 5-8pm

Opening Reception: *The US-Mexico Border: Place, Imagination, and Possibility*

5-6pm: Preview for Friends of 516 ARTS with walkthrough featuring guest curator & artists

6-8pm: Public Reception, music by Lone Piñon

Presented by/at 516 ARTS

Thursday, February 8, 5:30pm

Public Forum: *DREAM Act: Advocacy & Alliances*

Representatives from The Santa Fe Dreamers Project, NM Dream Team and the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center.

Presented by 516 ARTS at the Outpost Performance Space

Thursday, February 22, 7pm

Screening: *Femme Frontera*

Presented by 516 ARTS at The Guild Cinema

Thursday March 1, 5:30pm

Guest Speaker: Lalo Alcaraz

Presented by UNM Art Museum and 516 ARTS at George Pearl Hall, UNM

Saturday, March 2, 5-7pm

Partner Exhibit Opening: *Stories of Resilience of a Border State*

Presented by Humans of New Mexico and 516 ARTS at UNM Zimmerman Library (on view March – April)

Friday, March 9, 5:30pm

Public Forum: *Sovereignty & Sanctuary*

Presented by UNM American Studies Department and 516 ARTS at the Outpost Performance Space

Friday, March 30, 7pm

Poetry: 516 WORDS Reading

Presented by 516 ARTS at the Outpost Performance Space

Friday April 13, 6pm

Guest Speakers: Journalists Maria Hinojosa & Simon Romero in Conversation

Presented by 516 ARTS at the KiMo Theatre, followed by closing reception at 516 ARTS

Additional programs to be announced.

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IMAGES, page 1: Haydee Alonso • Pablo Lopez Luz • Pilar Agüero-Esparza & Hector Dio Mendoza • Rupert García



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LEAD MEDIA PARTNER:

AlbuquerqueJournal