



Northern Illinois University

NIU Art Museum

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Exhibition series *(RE)PRESENTING GUATEMALA*

with components at the Northern Illinois University Art Museum

DeKalb, IL – This winter/spring the Northern Illinois University Art Museum presents three shows in a campus exhibition series organized in collaboration with the Pick Museum of Anthropology and the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies that explore the history and identity of Maya people in Guatemala.

Through contemporary documentary photography, painting, textiles, and performance art, ***(RE)PRESENTING GUATEMALA***

illustrates a threatened yet vibrant living culture with rich spiritual and social traditions while also acknowledging the complex violent political and economic history that still impacts Guatemalans today.

The exhibitions at the NIU Art Museum run **Tuesday, January 17 through Friday, February 24** and include three separate shows on display in the Museum's galleries located on the first floor, west end of Altgeld Hall:

VISIONES E HISTORIAS: Maya Paintings from Guatemala features colorful painting full of narrative detail. Maya painters Paula Nicho Cúmez and Pedro Rafaél González Chavajay complement one another, her work exploring the internal spiritual world and his work exploring the external Maya experience.

REGINA JOSÉ GALINDO: Bearing Witness is a mid-career retrospective documenting performance works by an internationally-known Guatemalan artist and poet. She uses her body as a means for symbolic expression to challenge the inequalities and atrocities that have become commonplace across the globe. At times presenting unsettling topics, Galindo's work challenges viewers to address issues of social justice, gender, race, politics, and identity. ***This exhibition contains adult themes and graphic-violent content, nudity, and imagery not suitable for children or more sensitive viewers. Viewer discretion is advised.***

HUIPILES: Maya Identity and Identifier explores the rich and unique weaving and embroidery practices of the Guatemalan Maya through traditional women's blouses. Woven by women on back strap looms, the garments represent family and village identity throughout the central highlands region and embody a weaving tradition passed from mother to daughter.

Associated Events and Educational Programs

More information about the NIU Art Museum exhibitions, events, and educational programming may be found online by visiting www.niu.edu/artmuseum.

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Regina José Galindo. *Estoy viva / I Am Alive*, 2014.
Produced by / Producida por Padiglione d'Arte
Contemporanea, Milan, Italy
Photo by Andrea Sartori.

Wednesday, January 25

5-6 p.m., Altgeld 125

"Sociological Perspectives on the Significance of Space and Place in Performance Art"

Lecture by Jeffrey L. Kidder, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, NIU.

Saturday, January 28

Guatemalan Museum Day at NIU Opening Reception

Pick Museum of Anthropology, Cole Hall

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., **Guatemalan food** from Latin Patio Restaurant, Chicago

1-2 p.m., **Push Factors Guided Tour** with Museum Director Jennifer Kirker-Priest

2:30-3:30 p.m., **Guided Tour** at NIU Art Museum, Altgeld Hall with Museum Director Jo Burke.

Wednesday, February 1

5-6 p.m., Altgeld 315

Artist Talk with Regina José Galindo

6-7 p.m., NIU Art Museum

Light reception with the artist

7-8:30 p.m., Altgeld 315

Guatemalan Poetry Event

Bilingual poetry reading and recital, including pieces written and performed by Regina José Galindo, readings of work by Ana María Rodas, Adolfo Méndez-Vides, Luis Alfredo Arango and Humberto Ak'abal. Hosted by Francisco Solares-Larrave with Frances Jaeger, Professors of Spanish Languages and Literatures, NIU.

Saturday, February 4

7 p.m., DFBRL8R Gallery, 1463 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago

Regina José Galindo Performance

An exclusive performance event with Guatemalan artist Regina José Galindo. Galindo will present a unique live-physical performance in Chicago at the DFBRL8R Gallery dedicated to ephemeral and time based artistic practices. *\$10 Requested Donation.*

Join the NIU Art Museum's GET-ON-THE-BUS EXCURSION to this event and enjoy dinner at Latin Patio. Departs 3 p.m. Call 815-753-1936 for pricing and to RSVP before February 2.

Sunday, February 5

2-5 p.m., DFBRL8R Gallery,

1463 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago

"Social Practice and Performance" Roundtable

Discussion featuring artists Regina José Galindo, Marc Joseph Jeffery, Joseph Ravens, Roberto Sifuentes and Lisa Vinebaum addressing socially driven projects, forms of spectatorship and public engagement.

Thursday, February 9

7-8 p.m., Cole 100

"Maya Pilgrimage and Migration in the Lacandon Rainforest" Joel Palka, Professor, Department of

Anthropology, and Latin American and Latino Studies, University of Illinois-Chicago.

February 13 - February 17

Visiting Artist Residency with Pedro Rafaél González Chavajay in the Print Department at the NIU School of Art and Design.

Wednesday, February 15

7-8 p.m., Altgeld 315

"The History of Popular Maya Painting in Guatemala"

with gallerist and collector, Joseph Johnston, Arte Maya Tz'uhtil.

Thursday, February 16

5-6 p.m., Visual Arts Building 102

Artist and Collector Slide Talk with Pedro Rafaél González Chavajay with Joseph Johnston.

Monday, February 20

5-6 p.m., Latino Resource Center

"Visual Ethnography and Arts-Based Research: Two Videotaped Painting Lessons with Maya Painters Pedro Rafaél González Chavajay and Paula Nicho Cúmez" with Kryssi Staikidis, Associate Professor, Art Education + Design.

Tuesday, February 21

5-6 p.m., Visual Arts Building 102

Artist and Collector Slide Talk with Paula Nicho Cúmez with Rita Moran.

Wednesday, February 22

5-6:30 p.m., NIU Art Museum

Informal Gallery Talks with Maya Artists and Collectors *VISIONES E HISTORIAS: Maya Paintings from Guatemala* artists Pedro Rafaél González Chavajay and Paula Nicho Cúmez with collectors Joseph Johnston and Rita Moran discuss the exhibition.

Thursday, February 23

5-7:30 p.m., NIU Art Museum

Public Closing Reception with performance by Delia Victoria Cúmez Nicho of a Maya oral history shared with her by her grandmother that demonstrates the transmission of culture.

Wednesday, March 8

5-6 p.m., Cole 100

Curator and Artist Talk by Curators without Borders Director Heidi McKinnon and documentary photographer James Rodriguez.

Thursday, April 13

5-6 p.m., Latino Resource Center

"Representing Revolutionary Campesino Politics in Guatemala's 1950 Huelga de Dolores" Matt Maletz, Ph.D. Candidate in History, NIU.

For questions about the exhibitions or programs please phone 815-753-1936 or email the Education Coordinator shenni@niu.edu.

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**Also on view as part of the (RE)PRESENTING GUATEMALA exhibition suite at
The James B. and Rosalyn L. Pick Museum of Anthropology**

January 23 – May 12, 2017

PUSH FACTORS: Perspectives on Guatemalan Migration

A new exhibition that brings the causes and journey of migration to life through contemporary photography, documentary video, decorative textiles and traditional clothing. Materials recovered from archaeological work in the Sonoran Desert serve to personalize the migration experience. *Push Factors* asks visitors to rethink migration and encourages understanding of both documented and undocumented migrants.

Cole Hall; Tu-Th 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Fri-Sat 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Visit http://www.niu.edu/anthro_museum.

Additional Images



Left to Right:

Regina José Galindo, *Hermana / Sister*, 2010. Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala. Video: José Enrique Juárez. Pedro Rafaél González Chavajay, *Q'uj'kumatz, Quetzalcoatl / Winged Serpent*, 2011, (20 x 16 in.) On loan from the Barnes-Staikidis collection. Paula Nicho Cúmez, *El Peso de Nuestra Historia, The Weight of Our History*, 2012, (32 x 24 in.) On loan from the Helen Moran collection.

High-resolution images will be sent as a separate attachment upon request.

Support for (RE)PRESENTING GUATEMALA provided by The Northern Illinois University Center for Latino and Latin American Studies; Latino Resource Center; Department of Sociology; Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures; Gender and Sexuality Resource Center; the James B. and Rosalyn L. Pick Museum of Anthropology; the Olson Gallery, the Printmaking Division, Time Arts Division, the Visual Resource Center, and the Visiting Artists and Scholars Fund of the School of Art and Design; the Office of the President and Office of the Provost; Matthew Krystal, Professor and Chair of Anthropology at North Central College, Naperville; Marcie and David McMahon; an anonymous and kind-hearted Señora; the PLB Honor Fund; Rita Moran; DFBRL8R Gallery, Chicago; and The Fiber and Material Studies Department and the Performance Art Department at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.



Lenders Artwork and objects for the exhibitions has come from the university collections at NIU; the artists; private individuals; The Helen Moran Collection; Arte Maya Tz'uhutil, San Francisco, California; The Spurlock Museum of World Cultures at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; and Jason DeLeon's *Undocumented Migration Project* at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

The exhibitions and programs of the NIU Art Museum are sponsored in part by the Illinois Arts Council Agency; the Friends of the NIU Art Museum; and the Dean's Circle of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, NIU Foundation.

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REGINA JOSÉ GALINDO: *Bearing Witness* is organized by the Van Every/Smith Galleries, Davidson College, Davidson, North Carolina; with the support of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Bacca Foundation Visiting Lecture and Artist Fund, the North Carolina Arts Council, Herb Jackson and Laura Grosch Gallery Endowment, Davidson College Friends of the Arts, Davidson College's Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS), Latin American Studies at Davidson College, and Multicultural Affairs. The exhibition is curated by Lia Newman, Director/Curator at the Van Every/Smith Galleries.

VISIONES E HISTORIAS: *Maya Paintings from Guatemala* is co-curated by Joseph Johnston, Arte Maya Tz'uhtil, San Francisco and Rita Moran, Director of Maya Woman: The Helen Moran Collection.

HUIPILES: *Maya Identity and Identifier*

Co-curated by Stuart W. Henn, Education Coordinator, NIU Art Museum and Jennifer Kirker Priest, Director, James B. and Rosalyn L. Pick Museum of Anthropology with assistance from Matthew Krystal, Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology at North Central College, Naperville.

PUSH FACTORS: *Perspectives on Guatemalan Migration*

PUSH FACTORS was developed by Curators Without Borders with support from the Corcoran School of Art and Design at George Washington University. Additional exhibit elements curated by Pick Museum staff.

About the NIU Art Museum

The NIU Art Museum contributes to the University's educational curriculum and provides opportunities for art education and cultural enrichment throughout the community. The Museum serves to educate, preserve, exhibit, and enlighten by balancing the challenges of contemporary art with the riches of traditional media for a comprehensive examination of visual culture.

Gallery Hours

Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday 12 noon – 4 p.m.; or by appointment for group tours. Exhibitions are open to the public and admission is **FREE**, but donations are always appreciated.

The NIU Art Museum is located on the first floor, west end of Altgeld Hall, located on the corner of College Avenue and Castle Drives on the main campus of Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL. Parking is available in the Carroll Avenue Visitor's Pay Lot; handicapped and metered spots in front of Altgeld Hall; and during public receptions and programs in Lot 3 northeast of Gilbert Drive and College Avenue. Campus parking is free on weekends and after 5 p.m. weeknights.



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Art Museum

to educate, preserve, exhibit, and enlighten

Altgeld Hall 116, First Floor, West End
1425 W. Lincoln Hwy., Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115 / 815-753-1936
www.niu.edu/artmuseum

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