



The Center for Latin American Arts

CLAA Artists' and Writers' Summit and Workshop: Cultivating Compassion for Migrants through Fine Arts and Prose November 9-10, 2021

Workshop Focus:

This series of lectures and roundtables seeks to help in developing a community sense of place among young artists and writers and address issues related to discourses on the borderlands. Our focus is to give border residents a voice to share their experiences about immigration through storytelling, art, and other creative works. While the political maelstrom of the immigration emergency is complex and often difficult to navigate, writers and artists encourage us to write about and express these important aspects of the immigration experience that is so important in our community. This workshop seeks to encourage participants, who are inspired to share and support the narratives of immigrants and the plight of their families, to explore the themes of this event and create artistic media and written expressions.

This workshop will foster public conversations and raise awareness about the ongoing immigration dilemmas happening in the Rio Grande Valley and other borders. The project will support both experienced and aspiring writers and artists by fostering relationships through public lectures, roundtable, and exhibition events.

This writers' and artists' workshop will provide a venue for participants wishing to cultivate peace, awareness, and understanding through the written word and artistic media. The ethical directive delivered to the writers, artists, and audiences will be through the words of our keynote speakers, [Sister Norma Pimentel](#) and [Luis Alberto Urrea](#), who will participate in the workshop. Writers [Cecilia Ballí](#), [Melissa Guerra](#), [César L. De León](#), and [Christopher Carmona](#) will also participate to discuss the writer's process and share their knowledge of stories about the border to support the stories of immigrants and refugees in Texas and the southern borderlands through narrative, oral history, and other interpretive storytelling and creative methods. Collaborations with our invited speakers and our colleagues at UTRGV will provide unique learning activities for our students and our community, which is a key priority of the mission of the Center for Latin American Arts.

UTRGV Center for Latin American Arts

1201 West University Drive
ELIBR 2.114
Edinburg, Texas 78539
(956) 665-7234

www.utrgv.edu/claa



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Artist [Rigoberto A. González](#), who has won a Migration Narratives grant through the Institute of Diversity and Civic Life, is collaborating artist [Luis Corpus](#), Chair of the Department of Art at South Texas College, and artist [Olga Alanis](#), art instructor at South Texas College. These artists will be participating in a small exhibition at the CLAA space, and González will be giving a lecture at the roundtable events on November 10th. Artist Olga Alanis, who is a UTRGV MFA alumna and currently an art instructor at South Texas College, is one of González's former students and collaborators. She will be participating with Luis Corpus and Rigoberto A. González in the artists' workshop with students from both UTRGV and STC. All interested participants in our community are invited to attend.

Location of the event on November 9-10:

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1201 West University Drive

Edinburg, Texas 78539

Library Second Floor, ELIBR 2.114

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Our event will be a timely series of workshops that will coincide with the Hostile Terrain '94 exhibition that is installed at UTRGV this Fall 2021 under the organization of Dr. Sarah Rowe in the College of Liberal Arts: <https://sites.google.com/view/ht94utrgv/home?authuser=0>

Itinerary Day 1

CLAA Artists' Summit and Workshop:

Cultivating Compassion for Migrants through Fine Arts and Prose

Tuesday, November 9

Writer's Roundtable, "El Primero Paso:" Crafting Your Writer's Process

11:00am - 1:30pm

Author, poet, and finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, Luis Alberto Urrea, will join four writers of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry to discuss the different aspects of the writer's craft, including what inspires their writing, their writing process, and what it is like to work within their genre.

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They will consider how immigration and the border have shaped their lives, their work, and their identities. All students who are writers, or considering a life of writing, are encouraged to attend.

Speakers will share for 10-15 minutes about their personal approach to writing, developing an argument and a point of view, and other topics relevant to writing effectively. The prompts for writing will connect with the theme of the roundtable and event.

Audience engagement will include panelists crafting a prompt to reveal to the participants. Our audiences will be encouraged to write a poem or a text up to 500 words in response to the prompt, and there will be time to allow the participants to post their work in a forum connected to the CLAA. Feedback from participants and panelists can later be posted. Submitting to the forum will be active until Nov 12 with feedback posted through Nov 19. All panelists for the November 10th event will be invited to comment.

This Writers' Roundtable on November 9th is co-sponsored by the CLAA and the generous support of The Center for Mexican American Studies (CMAS)

Participating Panelists

- **Luis Alberto Urrea**, keynote poet, author, and essayist
- **Cecilia Ballí**, journalist, writer, and anthropologist
- **César L. De León**, poet, writer and UTRGV Faculty member
- **Christopher Carmona**, writer and UTRGV faculty member
- **Melissa Guerra**, food historian, writer, and MFA graduate UTRGV 2020

Moderated by Director Katherine Moore McAllen

Schedule

10:30 gathering of participants and students with opening remarks

11:00-12:00 panelists speak about their process

12:15-12:25 Break

12:25-12:40 panelists answer questions from moderator

12:40-1:00 participants Q&A to panelists

1:00pm-1:30 opportunity to meet the panelists

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The Center for Latin American Arts

Tuesday, November 9

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Artists' Workshop: Painting with Cochineal Red

Join artists Luis Corpus, Olga Alanis, and Rigoberto A. González to create artworks using these materials from cochineal in a workshop that shares stories and speaks metaphorically about the urgent crisis on the border.

Painting Workshop

Cochineal is a red dye consisting of the dried, pulverized bodies of certain insects, *Dactylopius coccus* of the Coccidae family, which are cactus-eating cochineal insects native to tropical and subtropical America. Cochineal is used to produce scarlet, crimson, orange, and other colors, and it is also incorporated to prepare pigments such as lake and carmine. The dye was introduced into Europe from México, where it had been used long before the arrival of the Spanish. Cochineal is found in South Texas and is native to this area.

Activities

Participants will explore the process of extracting a variety of red dyes from cochineal, paint with cochineal on paper, and create a collaborative group artwork created by all.

Participants

Artist exhibition in the CLAA and Gallery Talk with participating artists

- **Luis Corpus**, Chair Department of Art, South Texas College
- **Olga Alanis**, MFA UTRGV 2020, Art Instructor, South Texas College
- **Rigoberto A. González**, Faculty Member and Lecturer, School of Art & Design, UTRGV

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The Center for Latin American Arts

Itinerary Day 2

Wednesday, November 10

10:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Artists' and Writers' Talks (15-20 minutes)

Schedule

10:30 Welcome Dr. Katherine Moore McAllen, Director

Lectures

Moderated by Cecilia Ballí

10:30 – 10:40 **Lecture Luis Corpus**

10:40- 10:45 Q&A

10:45 - 11:05 **Lecture Rigoberto A. Gonzalez**

11:05 - 11:20 Q&A

11:30 - 12:00 **Lecture Sister Norma Pimentel**

12:00 - 12:15 Q&A

12:15 - 1:00 Lunch

1:05 - 1:35 **Lecture Luis Urrea**

1:35 - 1:55 Q&A

2:00pm Interdisciplinary Discussion with all participants

ZOOM invitation option

If you prefer to attend via Zoom, you are invited to register for this webinar.

When: Nov. 9 and 10, 2021 starting at 10:00 AM Central Time (US)

Topic: CLAA Artists' Summit and Workshop 2021

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://utrgv.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fVDC0m4dTG2xfnJrVSDBdw

Or an H.323/SIP room system:

H.323:

162.255.37.11 (US West)

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162.255.36.11 (US East)
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213.244.140.110 (Germany)
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149.137.40.110 (Singapore)
64.211.144.160 (Brazil)
149.137.68.253 (Mexico)
69.174.57.160 (Canada Toronto)
65.39.152.160 (Canada Vancouver)
207.226.132.110 (Japan Tokyo)
149.137.24.110 (Japan Osaka)
Meeting ID: 818 1306 4586
SIP: 81813064586@zoomcrc.com

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

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