



THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

LEADERSHIP
EDUCATION
SUCCESS

UTRGV
Center for
Latin American Arts

Dr. Steven Block

Dean of the College of Fine Arts

Dr. Katherine Moore McAllen

Director of the Center for Latin American Arts



2020
2021

PROJECT OVERVIEW 2020-2021



CENTER FOR

LATIN AMERICAN ARTS



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SENDING OUR APPRECIATION AND THANK YOU



The Center for Latin American Arts advances scholarship, performances, and the exhibition of Latin American arts in the popular, folk, and academic traditions from the United States and Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries. Based in the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley College of Fine Arts, the Center facilitates the exchange of ideas among students, performers, artists, and scholars united by common interests to bring performances and knowledge of these arts to the Rio Grande Valley community, Texas, and beyond.

The core values of the Center are a dedication to community engagement, excellence in scholarship, art production and instruction, and performance, and a focus on student success by providing our students with unique learning opportunities on and off campus. Situated in a border region next to Latin America, UTRGV seeks to become a global leader in the study and performance of Latin American, Latinx, and Iberian arts.

The Center for Latin American Arts has served more than 2,169 students of all disciplines from the fine arts, medicine, education, and engineering. Over 500 public school students have benefited from the free dance, theatre, and music clinics provided by the Center and its UTRGV faculty and students. Scholars, playwrights, artists, dancers, and music performers have presented their talents and research to members of our community in the past year with grants. The Raul Tijerina, Jr. Foundation recently recognized the Center's dedication to community engagement projects for students with grants in 2019-2021. In 2020-2021, we were nominated for the *Ed Excelencia* award for Latino student success. In addition, the Center received funding from the Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation in 2020, and the Center has won grants from the Hollyfield Foundation and H-E-B in 2021. The Center has also achieved these goals because of your generosity to help our students. We are forever thankful for your support, and we hope you enjoy this overview of our events this year from 2020-2021.



César Martínez, *Bato Azul*
Acrylic on canvas, 64" x 64" inches, 2020
ruizhealyart.com



GRANTS AWARDED TO THE CLAA 2020-2021

RAUL TIJERINA, JR. FOUNDATION GRANT, ALICE KLEBERG REYNOLDS FOUNDATION GRANT, H-E-B GRANT, AND HOLLYFIELD FOUNDATION GRANT

The Center for Latin American Arts has received grants from the Raul Tijerina, Jr. Foundation (\$20,000 for 2019-2020 and \$15,000 for 2020-2021), the Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation (\$10,000 for 2020-2021), the H-E-B Grocery Grant (\$6,000 for 2021-2022), and the Hollyfield Foundation (\$2,000 for 2021-2022) in recognition for its successful dedication to community outreach projects that educate students and help K-12 teachers and university faculty share teaching projects through music, dance, theatre, and museum art exhibitions.

By focusing our innovative programs in the creative disciplines that young people in the Rio Grande Valley know and love, we aim to support today's students to involve them in meaningful creative activities that connect to our communities and resonate with our culture that has strong ties with Latin America. With the Raul Tijerina, Jr. Foundation grant, the CLAA completed dance workshops with 12 public schools teaching free dance clinics under the leadership of Miguel Peña and the UTRGV *Ballet Folklórico* in collaboration with the *Ballet Folklórico de la Universidad Veracruzana* (www.instagram.com/claa.utrgv). The 2020-2021 Raul Tijerina, Jr.

Foundation grant will support the international art exhibition *Uncovered Spaces* at the IMAS museum in McAllen opening in March 2022 and serving our community with student art exhibitions and lecture events through July 2022. The Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation, the H-E-B Grant, and the Hollyfield Foundation have also provided financial support for the *Uncovered Spaces* art exhibition organized by the CLAA.

The Center's community outreach programs also extend to music education funded by the Raul Tijerina, Jr. Foundation grants. CLAA faculty affiliate Dr. Virginia Davis has led music workshops in K-12 schools in collaboration with the The Little Kids Rock education program and the Berkeley College of Music. This program that Dr. Davis has brought to university and K-12 students through these workshops teaches students to create music by writing and performing their own songs to help connect with the music of their communities. Dr. Davis has helped provide free instruments and intensive teacher-training workshops to local public school music teachers to familiarize them with best practices for teaching vernacular music in the classroom. Two guest clinicians from New York and Boston, who are experts in modern band and teacher education, have also been invited to teach new methods to engage students in active music making, composition, and improvisation to help sustain the Valley's rich cultural heritage. These events presented virtually in 2020 will be hosted live in person this Fall 2021.

THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS

Mil Gracias to the Raul Tijerina foundation for supporting our projects in 2021-2022:

"The Center for Latin American Arts presents Student Success through Art, Music, and Dance in the Rio Grande Valley"



THE
RAUL TIJERINA JR.
FOUNDATION
2021



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In March and April 2021, Dr. Virginia Davis and the CLAA hosted two virtual music education events with the support of the Raul Tijerina, Jr. Foundation. Dr. Kat Reinhert, President of the Association for Popular Music Education, was invited to participate as a guest musician in a two-part interactive workshop on contemporary vocals and popular music pedagogy hosted by Dr. Davis. Reinhert shared her expertise and creative advice with UTRGV students through the "Contemporary Vocals" virtual event on March 11 and the "Getting Started on Songwriting" on April 1 this year. These teacher-training workshops that expand students' Modern Band music, songwriting, and *Ballet Folklórico* dance skills to young audiences in the Rio Grande Valley help connect our students to the music of our communities and reinforce the value of a well-rounded education. When students feel acknowledged, supported, and involved in their creative programs, they become lifelong learners and are more likely to be academically successful, finish school, and receive their college degree.

VISITING ARTISTS AND SCHOLARS 2020-2021



NORESTE: A VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

Guest artists

César Martínez
Rigoberto González
and Mario Jiménez Díaz

Moderators

Dr. Patricia Ruiz-Healy
Dr. Christen García

The CLAA organized the exhibition *Noreste*, with invited artists César A. Martínez (San Antonio, Texas), Rigoberto González (McAllen, Texas), and Mario Jiménez (Matamoros, México), to examine culture and identity in this liminal space that is the borderlands. These works in this exhibition visualize the artists' perspectives in Texas and Northern Mexico addressing issues such as the commercialization of culture, the immigration crisis, social activism, our diverse ecological environment, and how these subjects have come to the forefront of contemporary art.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the CLAA organized a panel discussion with the exhibiting artists César A. Martínez, Mario Jiménez Díaz, and UTRGV faculty member Rigoberto González. The CLAA roundtable was co-moderated by Dr. Patricia Ruiz-Healy of Ruiz-Healy Art galleries in San Antonio and New York City and UTRGV colleague Dr. Christen García from the School of Art. The panel was held virtually on October 13, 2020 with 140 attendees.



Rigoberto González César Martínez Mario Jiménez Díaz

www.utrgv.edu/claa
JOIN US FOR THIS LIVE ZOOM EVENT
ON TUESDAY OCTOBER 13TH AT 5:00 PM CST
MODERATED BY DR. PATRICIA RUIZ-HEALY
AND DR. CHRISTEN GARCÍA
ZOOM MEETING REGISTRATION AND ID:
82161814858

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The Center for Latin American Arts honors National Hispanic and Latinx Month with:



Rigoberto González César Martínez Mario Jiménez Díaz

A ROUNDTABLE MODERATED BY DR. PATRICIA RUIZ-HEALY AND DR. CHRISTEN GARCÍA
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13TH / 5:00 PM
ZOOM MEETING ID:
821 6181 4858
www.utrgv.edu/claa

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STUDIO VISITS



As a part of our *Noreste* exhibition, the Center for Latin American Arts recorded a virtual studio visit featuring participating artist and UTRGV Faculty Rigoberto A. González. The Center presents information about Rigoberto's methodologies, techniques, and art studio at the Edinburg campus. Viewers can safely enjoy access and insight as the virtual recordings are uploaded on the CLAA's YouTube Channel with hyperlinks on the CLAA's official website and linktree on Instagram.



Rigoberto González, *The Flight into Egypt Immigrants Crossing the Border into South Texas*, Oil on Linen, 6' x 5' feet, 2020

UKE CAN DO IT



An Introduction to the Ukulele
with Popular Music presented by

Dr. Bryan Powell
Montclair State University

On September 16, 2020, CLAA Executive Committee Member and Professor of Music, Dr. Virginia Davis invited Dr. Bryan Powell of Montclair State University and Little Kids Rock to host "UKE Can Do It!" Dr. Bryan Powell delivered a wonderful introductory workshop about learning to play the ukulele and its applications in popular music pedagogy. Public school music teachers from different independent school districts attended.


Dr. Powell leads Higher Education Initiatives for Little Kids Rock. He is a former New York City public school music teacher, working in an East Harlem public school for 11 years. Dr. Powell currently teaches music education classes at Montclair State University and various colleges and universities in the New York City metropolitan area, including New York University.

For more information on Dr. Powell and his teaching initiatives at Little Kids Rock visit:

<https://www.littlekidsrock.org/about/team/bryan-powell/>

UKE CAN DO IT!


by Dr. Bryan Powell
Montclair State University





AN INTRODUCTION
TO THE UKULELE
WITH POPULAR
MUSIC PEDAGOGY

ZOOM MEETING LINK
<https://utrgv.zoom.us/j/92265367959>



Wednesday
September 16, 2020
from 11-12pm.



Dr. Bryan Powell
Montclair State University



UTRGVCLAA
claa.utrgv
www.utrgv.edu/claa



OBJECT HISTORIES AND COMMUNITY EXPERTISE: CURATING LATIN AMERICAN ART IN 2020

Dr. Kristopher Driggers
Schmidt Curator of Latin American Art
at the Tucson Museum of Art

"Object Histories and Community Expertise: Curating Latin American Art in 2020," presented a lecture by former UTRGV faculty member Dr. Kristopher Driggers, now The Bernard and Jeanette Schmidt Curator of Latin American Art at the Tucson Museum of Art. Dr. Driggers led a dynamic discussion about Latin American Art and addressed the histories of collecting and display in the museum. 70 people attended on October 14, 2020.

Dr. Driggers obtained his bachelor's degree in the History of Art from Yale University in 2011 and his MA degree in Art History from the University of Chicago in 2014. He recently obtained his Ph.D. in Art History, Pre-Columbian, and Colonial Latin American Art from the University of Chicago in May 2019. He is currently introducing new and innovative curatorial practices with the reinstallation of the Latin American collection at the Tucson Museum of Art.

Tucson Museum of Art

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PRESENTS A TALK BY: DR. KRISTOPHER DRIGGERS, THE BERNARD AND JEANETTE SCHMIDT CURATOR OF LATIN AMERICAN ART



TUCSON MUSEUM of ART
AND HISTORIC BLOCK

JOIN US FOR THIS LIVE ZOOM EVENT
ON WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14TH
5:00 PM CST

**"OBJECT HISTORIES AND COMMUNITY
EXPERTISE: CURATING LATIN AMERICAN
ART IN 2020"**



**ZOOM MEETING REGISTRATION
AND ID: 84020487220**



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CURATORIAL INTERNSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS: PREPARATION, EXPERIENCES AND ADVICE

Akemi Luisa Herráez Vossbrink
The Meadows Museum
SMU Dallas

Last November 11, 2020, the CLAA invited Ph.D. Candidate Akemi Luisa Herráez Vossbrink at the Meadows Museum in Dallas to lecture for “Curatorial Internships and Fellowships: Preparation, Experiences and Advice.” Vossbrink led an informative discussion on the current Latin American and Spanish Art practices, histories, and professional career advice in the museum field. There were 99 attendees.

Akemi was invited to speak at the *Congreso de Arte Virreinal: el Futuro del Arte del Pasado* in Lima, Perú hosted by the CLAA and sponsored by the Thoma Foundation, in 2019. She also held curatorial posts at The National Gallery (London) and The Getty Museum (Los Angeles). At the National Gallery she assisted in curating two exhibitions on the Spanish artists Bartolomé Bermejo and Joaquín Sorolla. Her doctoral thesis expands beyond Spain considering the presence of paintings by the seventeenth-century Spanish artist Francisco de Zurbarán in Latin America.



Join us for a lecture hosted by
THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS

Akemi Luisa Herráez, CSA Curatorial Fellow
The Meadows Museum, SMU Dallas

**Curatorial Internships
and Fellowships:
Preparation, Experiences
and Advice**

**Thursday November 19th at 5:30pm
ZOOM ID: 840 6399 5917**

www.utrgv.edu/CLAA



MEADOWS MUSEUM
SMU · DALLAS

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Joaquín Sorolla y Bastida, *The Return from Fishing*
Oil on Canvas, 265cm. x 325cm., 1894
m.musee-orsay.fr

PERU'S BICENTENARY: MATERIALITY, INVISIBILITY, ERASURE, AND REINVENTION

Moderators

Dr. Katherine Moore McAllen

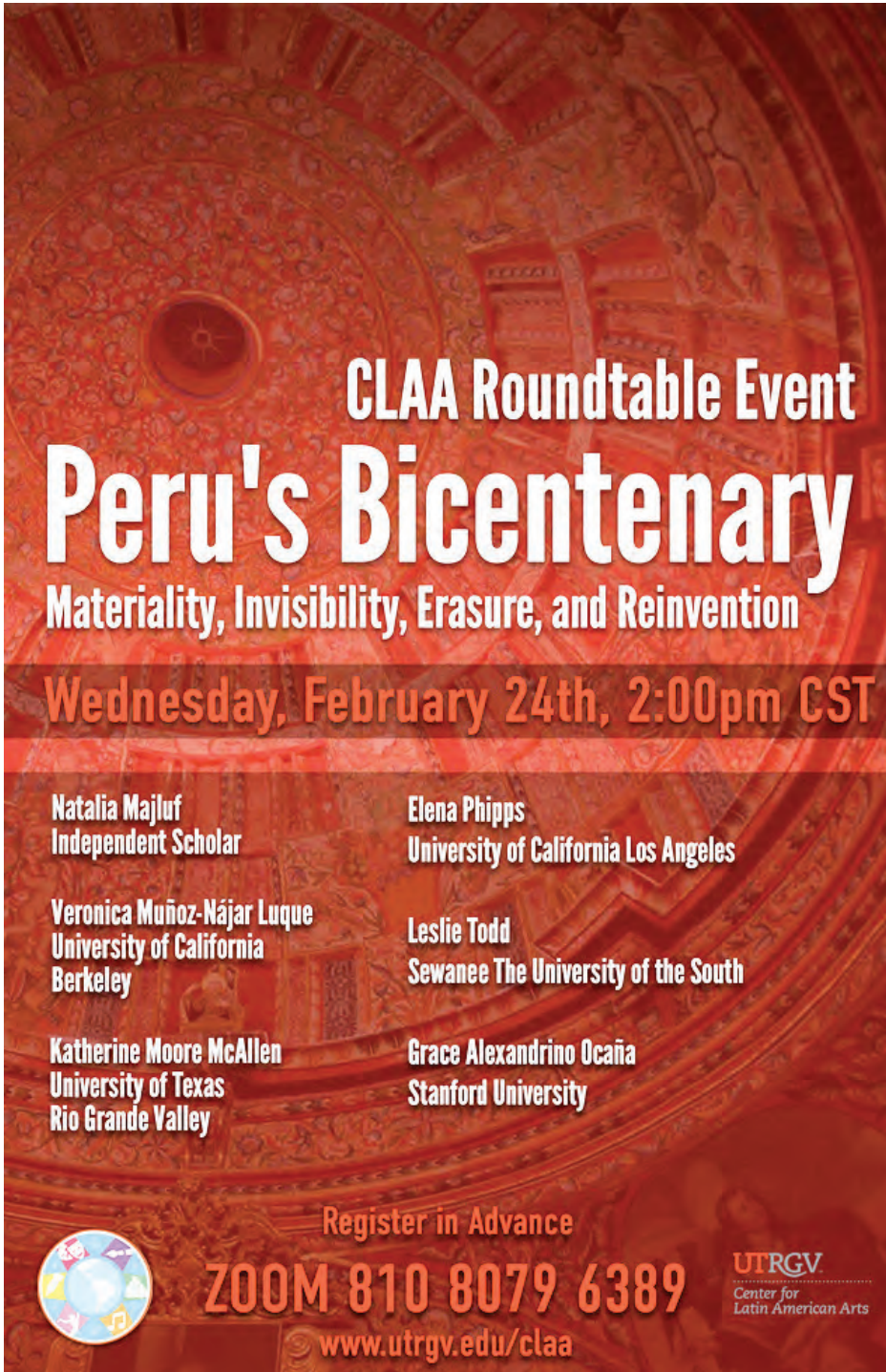
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Veronica Muñoz-Nájjar Luque

University of California, Berkeley

On February 24, 2021, the CLAA hosted the virtual roundtable "Peru's Bicentenary: Materiality, Invisibility, Erasure, and Reinvention." The roundtable discussed the narratives that have constructed Peruvian Art in the year of the 200th anniversary of Peru's Independence and explored how artists, architects, and patrons established their power and identity within the colonial context and the period after Independence.

The CLAA invited guest speakers Dr. Natalia Majluf, independent scholar and visiting professor at the University of Chicago, Dr. Elena Phipps from The University of Los Angeles, Grace Eliana Alexandrino Ocaña from Stanford University, Veronica Muñoz-Nájjar from the University of California, Berkeley, and Dr. Leslie Todd from Sewanee, The University of the South. 90 participants attended this event.



CLAA Roundtable Event

Peru's Bicentenary

Materiality, Invisibility, Erasure, and Reinvention



Wednesday, February 24th, 2:00pm CST

Natalia Majluf Independent Scholar	Elena Phipps University of California Los Angeles
Veronica Muñoz-Nájjar Luque University of California Berkeley	Leslie Todd Sewanee The University of the South
Katherine Moore McAllen University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	Grace Alexandrino Ocaña Stanford University

Register in Advance

ZOOM 810 8079 6389

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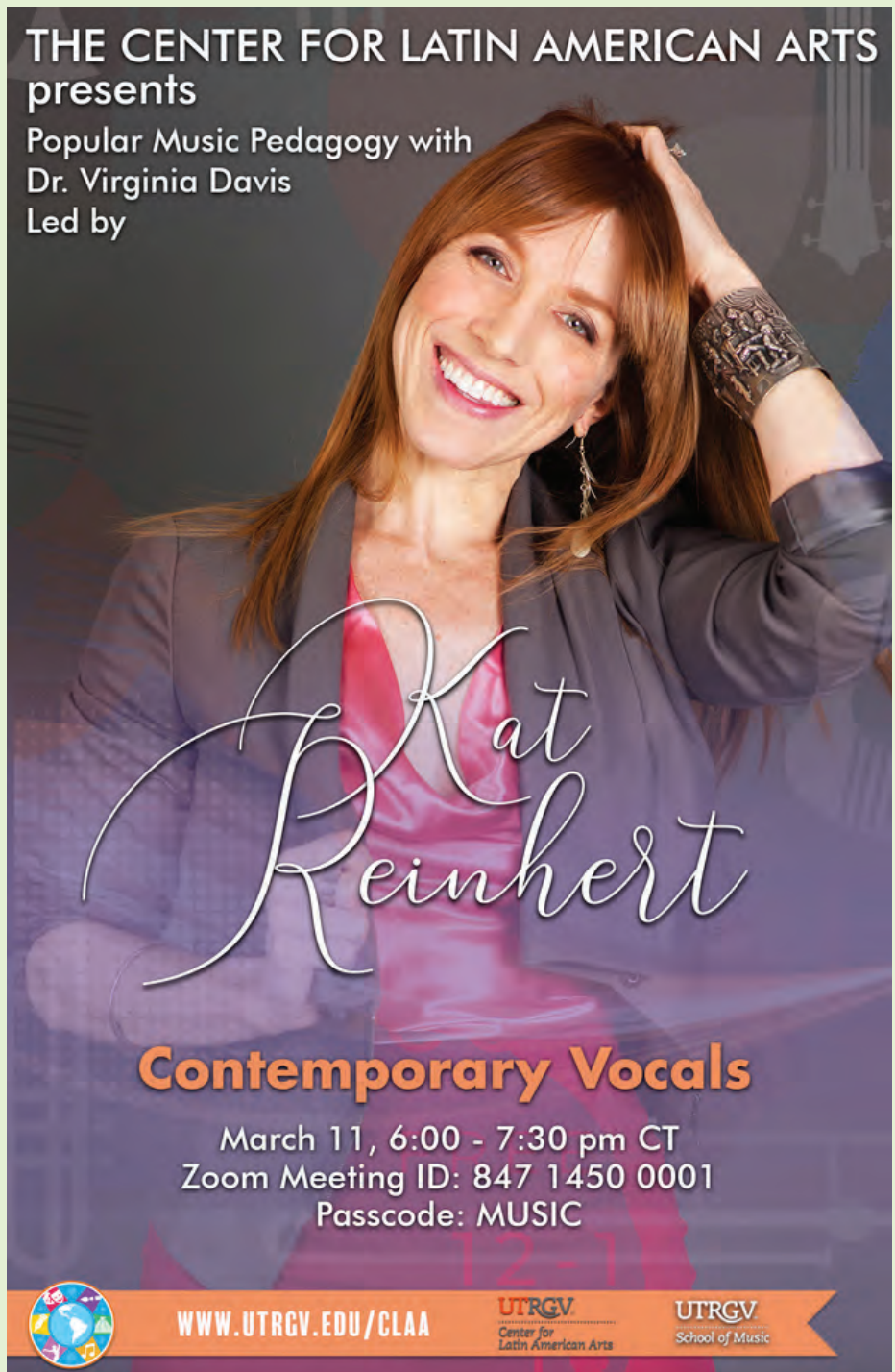
CONTEMPORARY VOCALS & GETTING STARTED WITH SONGWRITING

New York City based **Dr. Kat Reinhert**

CLAA Executive Committee Member and Professor of Music, Dr. Virginia Davis, invited musician Dr. Kat Reinhert for a two-part free interactive workshop on contemporary vocals and popular music pedagogy. Dr. Kat Reinhert shared her expertise and creative advice as an award-winning educator, author, vocalist, songwriter, and the current President of the Association for Popular Music Education. The two-part workshop series titled "Contemporary Vocals" held on March 11, 2021 and "Getting Started on Songwriting" on April 1 in 2021 welcomed 80 participants.

Both workshops provided intimate lessons on musical composition and voice performances for Dr. Virginia Davis' students. Dr. Kat Reinhert provided profound insight on creativity and inspiration during the quarantine with positive and encouraging feedback from our students.




THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS
presents
Popular Music Pedagogy with
Dr. Virginia Davis
Led by



Kat Reinhert

Contemporary Vocals

March 11, 6:00 - 7:30 pm CT
Zoom Meeting ID: 847 1450 0001
Passcode: MUSIC

 WWW.UTRGV.EDU/CLAA  

FALL 2020 AND SPRING 2021 REGISTRATION SOCIAL



The CLAA hosted two registration socials for both Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 to help students register for classes, answer questions about advising, funding sources, and financial aid. Representatives from the Registrar, Financial Aid, and Scholarship offices presented virtually and directly attended to student concerns and comments.

Despite the virtual transition induced by the COVID-19 global pandemic, the CLAA successfully bolstered student enrollment in the arts. The College of Fine Arts will resume face to face instruction in administering best practices for creative education, and The Center staff will continue to serve our students safely and properly at our physical space located at the 2nd floor of the Edinburg Library.

THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS
is hosting a

Pre-Thanksgiving **Registration Social**

Monday November 16th at 3:00pm

ZOOM ID
883 0144 1874

The Registrar and Financial Aid offices
will be present at this event to assist you
with all your questions to help you register
and get financial support .

We hope you can join us!



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CLAA YOUTUBE CHANNEL

The Center for Latin American Arts continues to offer virtual events, which are later uploaded on our YouTube Channel under the name Center for Latin American Arts. The updated channel features all Center recorded lectures, roundtables, exhibitions, performances, and a series of visits to artists' studios entitled *Visita Mi Estudio* (Visit My Studio). The Center for Latin American Arts YouTube Channel can be accessed on the application and any other internet platforms as the hyperlinks are interconnected on the Center official website and Linktree on Instagram. Viewers can safely access recorded events at their leisure on smart cellular devices, smart televisions, laptops, desktops, and tablets.

YouTube: Center for Latin American Arts





EVENTS 2020-2021

DÍA DE MUERTOS ALTARS 2020 COMMUNITY EXHIBITION

International Museum of Art
& Science



The CLAA participated in the *Día de los Muertos* Altars 2020 Community Exhibition at the International Museum of Art & Science (IMAS) in McAllen, Texas, on October 14, 2020. Colleagues Carol Lopez and Daniel Ymbong collaborated with fellow UTRGV alumna and artist Angelica Rodriguez in building an *ofrenda* (altar) dedicated to fashion designer Oscar de la Renta, who is from the Dominican Republic. They installed an altar decorated with fashion paraphernalia, hand painted sugar skulls, and Black Catholic devotions prominent in the Dominican Republic.



DÍA DE MUERTOS LOS MUERTOS BAILAN



CLAA colleagues Carol Lopez and Daniel Ymbong collaborated with the City of Edinburg on their *Los Muertos Bailan* Festival, from October 22-October 23, 2020. The CLAA was asked to create a presentation honoring the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg to complement the *Día de los Muertos* altar made in her honor. Lopez and Ymbong presented a fun and informative talk about The Day of the Dead *ofrenda* (altar) traditions and details commemorating the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Their video presentation was met with encore requests and remained on the City of Edinburg Facebook and website pages along with other programs organized by the Museum of South Texas History and the City of Edinburg.



Carol Lopez
MA: Chief Administration and Education Liaison



Daniel Ymbong
MA: Curatorial and Special Events and Social Media Associate

FESTIBA EXHIBITIONS 2021



To celebrate the start of Festiba 2021, the Center for Latin American Arts proudly presented four exhibitions: *Pedazos de Ayer* by Ángela V. Scardigno, *Stillness* by Carlos Limas and *Santas, the Feminine Divine* by Carol Lopez, and *The Virgin Mary: Art, Materiality, and Piety* by Daniel Ymbong. Center colleagues and artists Limas and Scardigno exhibited their original artworks, as colleagues Lopez and Ymbong collaborated with collections at the International Museum of Art & Science in McAllen, Texas.

Pedazos de Ayer By Ángela V. Scardigno

Artist Statement

Pedazos de Ayer, is inspired by the landscapes of the Rio Grande Valley. In south Texas, it is not uncommon to find large abandoned and forgotten properties in our immediate vicinity, and these spaces randomly appear or are part of a temporal past that linger like ghost towns. *Pedazos de Ayer* is a series of wooden collages that represent a con-

densed summary of my vision of the Rio Grande Valley. They are pieces of physical places, mixed with memories and unknown stories. I believe that my work somehow challenges oblivion by making these objects that seem to be forgotten and dying out important for our visual memory. These works bring us face-to-face with the unique beauty of

aged matter, worn objects, and colors altered by the vagaries of the weather. They challenge us to contemplate the state of forgetting by elevating found objects as works of art to preserve ideas that might have otherwise passed into oblivion.



Ángela V. Scardigno, *Pedazo N°8*, 2018, Wood Collage, 15 x 14 inches.

angelascardigno.com



Stillness

By Carlos Limas

Artist Statement

This photographic series documents the frequently unnoticed urban and rural architecture in the Rio Grande Valley. Through these images, I reflect on the motifs and attributes of many abandoned houses and commercial buildings and their own unique esthetic, as well as what they represent to me as a visual artist while I contemplate their stoic presence. In my work, I follow a traditional Deadpan style, which is very popular in medium format film photography and is emulated in this series by a full-frame digital camera. Careful attention is given to perspective, symmetry, and negative space, and I look for compositional possibilities through the attributes of light and color. My intention is to create a collection of large format images where the viewer feels compelled to step into each image, giving him or her a chance to visually explore a more personal and intimate experience by the stillness of space and time. Stillness is the act of contemplation, and contemplation transcends into visual silence.



Carlos Limas, *Brownsville*, 2018-2021, Color Photography, 16 x 16 inches.

carloslimas.com

The Virgin Mary: Art, Materiality, and Piety

By Daniel Ymbong

The establishment of the Spanish viceroyalties ushered new popular devotions and art production depicting the Virgin Mary in the Americas in the Early Modern period. The great demand for Marian images beginning in the sixteenth century led to the establishment of artists' guilds, workshops, and schools, which produced artworks to adorn public and private spaces. Marian art and devotion became part of many visual cultures in Latin America, informing the daily lives of diverse populations in the viceroyalty, so much so that the devotion to Mary would inspire revolution and continue to permeate in present day spirituality and identity in Latin America. This miniature exhibition explores the origins, diaspora, and transformation of Marian iconography and devotions from the IMAS Permanent Collection that are available to be experienced here in the Rio Grande Valley.



Anonymous Artist, *Virgin and Child*, tin / paint / wood / metal, Peruvian, IMAS Permanent Collection, gift of Mary Hunter 2005.05.10.
theimasonline.org/the-virgin-mary-art



Santas: The Feminine Divine

By Carol Lopez

The Christian faith's importance expanded due to the Spanish and Portuguese Viceroyalty, much of the art was influenced by Spanish, Italian, and Flemish Renaissance and Baroque paintings, prints, and sculptures. Throughout Christianity, female saints became models of holiness, emotional and spiritual solidarity. Saints such as St. Theresa, St. Katherine, St. Barbra, St. Lucy, St. Anne, and St. Veronica were popular during the colonial times, which produced varying hybrid and new artworks and devotions throughout the colonies. Latin American's first female saint was *Santa Rosa de Lima*, a Creole (European born in the viceroyalty), is remembered for her piety, chastity, and iconography of crowned thorn roses. This devotion to female saints and Catholicism as a whole, greatly impacted the daily lives and art production of all the inhabitants in the Spanish and Portuguese viceroyalties, up to revolution to the modern-day. This virtual exhibition explores the cultural, political, social, material, and artistic significance and female sainthood in Latin America from the permanent collection of the International Museum of Art & Science.



Antonio Garcia, *Virgen de Soledad*, painted clay, Mexican, IMAS Permanent Collection, 1983.11.111.
theimasonline.org/santas-the-feminine-divine



STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

Yadira Marisol Hernández

"I had the privilege to work on 'Cerebritos,' a video series project directed by Professor Eric Wiley with the Latino Theatre Initiatives, which was sponsored by the CLAA. This project was a great experience as a graphic designer. I was able to deeply explore my heritage, while mastering my skills in branding such as digital media."

Alexis Ramos

"My most memorable experiences at the CLAA were attending the Matthew Looper Maya Glyph Workshop and meeting Chicano activist and pioneer artist César Martínez. At the Maya workshop, I witnessed a beautiful and priceless endeavor rediscovering an

ancient Indigenous language. It was an intimate hands-on experience, connecting with my roots. I experienced the same meeting when the CLAA invited artist César Martínez who spoke to me on the importance of invention and identity."

Shari Flores

"I am immensely grateful to the CLAA and to my mentor Raheleh Filsoofi for their support. They encouraged me to work beyond my own boundaries and experiment with the possibilities that clay carries as a medium within the context of identity and border politics. I was able to attend inspiring lectures and exhibitions celebrating the borderlands liminal space thanks to the support of the CLAA."

Angelica Rodriguez

"I am very thankful for the CLAA for providing me with the opportunity to collaborate and participate in the 'Día de los Muertos' Celebration community altar display at the IMAS in 2020. I will always treasure my travel abroad to Peru experience, enriched by the knowledge and guidance of Dr. Katherine McAllen and Dr. Robert Bradley. They have continued to support and provide mentorship to both me and my fellow classmates with virtual lectures, exhibitions, and inspiring alumni spotlights."

Cristina Correa

"I would like to thank the CLAA and my graduate mentors, Dr. Katherine McAllen, Jerry Lyles, Raheleh Filsoofi, and Paul Valadez, for their consistent words of encouragement and tireless dedication to me, my colleagues, and students."

Fatima Lai

"I am beyond thankful to the CLAA for providing me valuable opportunities in connecting me with artists, scholars, and building incredible ties with professionals that I respect. I want to thank my Art History professors for the extraordinary opportunity to travel abroad to Cuzco, Peru, and to Dr. Katherine McAllen for the opportunity to assist with research. These unforgettable experiences inspired my MFA Thesis exhibition 'Katharsis.' I am forever grateful!"

Jesmil M. Maldonado Rodriguez

"The Center for Latin American Arts is a place where students can enrich their knowledge in the arts, through talks, performances, exhibitions, and scholarly research. The CLAA and its staff continue to work diligently to provide quality art and cultural opportunities to the UTRGV community. Thank you for everything you do."

Alondra De Hoyos

"We were able to work on videos intended for students, especially Latino students, to find science exciting. As a Latina myself, I notice that there is not much representation of my culture, and my people, and I've always wondered why. I deeply hope that these videos encourage young Latinos/as to pursue a career in the STEM field because anything really is possible. Once again, I want to thank you for making this possible. It is always a big help, especially in these difficult times this pandemic has brought to everyone."

Santos Reyna

"I would like to say on behalf of the Latino Theatre Initiatives, thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to work on this project. During the difficult moments that the pandemic brought to us, it helped shed light on us. It was very rewarding to be able to inspire the Latino community by educating the youth and showing them the marvelous things in science."

Leticia Lowery-Garcilazo

"I am thankful beyond words for all the support and encouragement from the Center for Latin American Arts in promoting my work and exhibitions. It was an honor to be under the mentorship of Center Director Dr. Katherine McAllen and Executive Committee member Raheleh Filsoofi. I am also grateful to work with an amazing team of Center colleagues:

Ángela Scardigno, Carlos Limas, Carlo Lopez, and Daniel Ymbong. ¡Gracias, los extraño!"

Daniel Ymbong

"I am beyond thankful to the Center for Latin American Arts for providing valuable experiences as a staff member. In a competitive industry, the Center has been vital and generous in giving me the chance to curate several projects. It's a privilege to serve our community and trail-blaze the path for future creative professionals and leaders."

Nydia Salinas

"The Center for Latin American Arts has brought an abundance of opportunities for the students at the School of Art. I have been able to use their space for classwork, attend workshops, lectures and receive generous funding for my Arquetopia International Artist Residency in Puebla, Mexico. Dr. McAllen has been so supportive since my undergraduate career until today as a graduate student at UTRGV, and for this, I am forever grateful. Her dedication to students is something we all cherish, and the Center's staff is an exemplary group of individuals! ¡Gracias!"

Samantha Rawls

"The CLAA is a great place for supporting Latinx *mujeres* and the arts. As a woman artist, it's a constant external battle of representation and fighting ideals of beauty. I'm proud to see my fellow

peers and artists supported by the center like Josie Del Castillo, Ángela Scardigno, and Monica Lugo. The CLAA has been a champion in supporting Latinx women in the arts."

Andrea Garza

"The Center of Latin American Arts is known as a gathering place for collaboration and the promotion of the arts in Latin America through teaching, scholarship, performance, and creative works in different forms of media to share knowledge and connect with traditions that are important to the communities in the Rio Grande Valley and more. As a UTRGV student, I personally believe that the opportunities given from the Center of Latin American Arts have had a huge positive impact on the dance program providing us dancers with many learning experiences to broaden our studies."

Monica Lugo

"The Center for Latin American Arts offers a great opportunity for students to showcase their work. I recently attended Ángela Scardigno's 'Abstract Narratives through the Glass', and as a graduate student in graphic design concentration, it was so encouraging and exciting to see an inclusive space that any art student can be a part of. I believe this space will benefit many students and their different concentrations by showcasing work that celebrates culture and visual communication."

Tania Viveros

"Ángela Scardigno's exhibition, 'Abstract Narratives Through the Glass', sponsored by The Center for Latin American Arts, was elegant and visually informative. This exhibition inspired me to view her sculpture work in a minimalist form. It allowed me to explore my artistic creative options, as I too create sculptural work. Her role as an artist encourages me to push through the arts and life's unexpected hurdles and strives for success. I also wanted to thank the Center for Latin American Arts for giving Latino artists the possibility of expression and for supporting the arts in the Rio Grande Valley."

Jennifer Jimenez

"I want to thank the CLAA for the experience of traveling to perform Flamenco. Aside from the American College Dance Association yearly travel, most of us do not get the chance to perform outside of the Edinburg campus. Going to San Antonio to perform in a new community made me feel that I am capable as a student to continue performing."

Jennifer M. Ledezma

"The San Antonio Flamenco [Performance that the CLAA gave me] was an experience of traveling to perform for an audience outside the Rio Grande Valley. This experience led us to perform with live musicians and soloist, and that is something I want to continue to experience because having prerecorded music differs, as a future dance educator."





STUDENT SUPPORT



Ceramic Classroom at the Art Building UTRGV



Learning weaving in Cusco, Perú

nydiasalinas.com

Nydia Salinas

The CLAA has sponsored MFA student Nydia Salinas in completing her studies at the Arquetopia Artist-in-program in Mexico. Nydia holds a BFA from UTRGV (2020) and an Associate Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from South Texas College in Weslaco (2016). Her body of work celebrates the borderlands culture, reclaiming the vernacular and Chicano movement. In her *Aguas Frescas* (Fresh Waters) series, Nydia highlights the quotidian background of her upbringing in Nuevo Progreso. Nydia juxtaposes Warholian ideas on consumption, elevating localized artistry such as *jarrones* (vases) in homage to vendors in the *pueblitos* (little towns). Nydia's recent works explore the unique dialect of the RGV, translating theories from text into a celebratory artistic form, amplifying and humanizing the voices/beauty of Latinx people.

Salinas has held numerous exhibitions and achieved awards including: the Collaborative South Texas Ceramic Showdown (2018), *Mujeres*

Eres (Women Are) in 2019, *Chicas Bonitas* (Pretty Girls) (2019), UTRGV Engaged Scholars (2019), the Dean's Scholarship (2020), and the Achieve Grant (2019), the George Truan Scholarship (2021), and the Oris Robertson Scholarship for the Arquetopia Artist-in-Residence in Mexico. In 2018, Salinas studied abroad in Cusco, Peru as she immersed herself in Peruvian art history, research, and outdoor excursions along the Choquequirao Trek from Apurímac Canyon to the Marampata viewpoint. She interned at the IMAS museum and served as the UTRGV BFA Student Exhibition Photographer in 2020.

Nydia has actively served the community at large, as a member of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts and the UTRGV Ceramics Organization. Through these organizations, Nydia has shared her artistic knowledge and time organizing events to support our artistic community.

CHAUTAUQUA SCHOOL OF ART 2021



The Center for Latin American Arts has fostered a relationship with the Chautauqua Residency and its faculty. Former UTRGV Faculty and CLAA Executive Committee Member Raheleh Filsoofi, is now currently at Vanderbilt University Department of Art and is part of the Lead Faculty at the Chautauqua Residency. Prior to Filsoofi's Vanderbilt appointment, Raheleh facilitated ongoing sponsorships with the UTRGV Ceramics Organization and the Chautauqua Institution School of Art. Students awarded residence include Shari Flores, a 2019 Chautauqua alumna and Social Media and Events Coordinator. For 2021, the CLAA will support two student winners Dominique Flores, BFA and Dr. Kathy Bussert-Webb, MFA, Ph.D. Raheleh and the CLAA and the International Museum of Art & Science are currently working on the exhibition *Uncovered Spaces* opening in 2022, featuring LGBTQIA+ artist and Director of the Chautauqua Institution of Art, Erika Diamond.



Meet our 2021 participants!



ART RESIDENCY SUPPORT

Chautauqua School of Art's Multidisciplinary Residency Program Summer 2021 Winners: **Dominique Flores, BFA** and **Dr. Kathy Bussert-Webb, MFA, Ph.D.**



The Center for Latin American Arts will be supporting the current student winners of the Chautauqua School of Art's Multidisciplinary Residency Program Summer 2021: Dominique Flores and Dr. Kathy Bussert-Webb. Both incoming students will receive stipends financed by the Center for Latin American Arts. These stipends will cover miscellaneous costs in transportation, textbook materials, art supplies, and other necessities crucial for a successful residency experience at the Chautauqua Institution.

Dominique Flores holds a BFA with a specialization in Ceramics minoring in Asian Studies and recently graduated last May 2021. Dr. Kathy Bussert-Webb is currently in the MFA in Sculpture, she is retired and is the former Slomp Endowed Chair (2016-2019) at the Department of Bilingual and Literacy Studies at UTRGV.



Dominique Flores

dominiqueflores.com



Dr. Kathy Bussert-Webb

DbyKathy.com



Dominique Flores, *Mom's Favorite Gum*, clay,
34 x 11.5 x 11 inches.



**Dr. Kathy Bussert-Webb, *My Kentucky Fried Csirke*,
(detail) multi-media installation (porcelain, stoneware,
found objects, textiles, paint), h.6ft. x w.6ft. x d.6ft. ,**
2021



UPCOMING EVENTS



The CLAA is proud to participate with UTRGV alumni and current educators in K-12 schools Cristina Correa, MFA, and Fatima Lai, MFA, to plan student art exhibitions and events in conjunction with the *Uncovered Spaces* exhibition at the IMAS museum in McAllen. Correa and Lai are collaborating with the CLAA as lead educators in the winning H-E-B Grocery Grant and Raul Tijerina, Jr. Foundation grant to organize student roundtable discussions and art exhibitions by high school seniors in the Brownsville Independent School District and IDEA Public Schools.

As part of the H-E-B Grocery Grant, Correa and Lai are supported by the CLAA to participate in the Smithsonian National Youth Summit at the IMAS museum, a Smithsonian affiliation. The subject of the September and October 2021 Smithsonian National Youth Summit is "Confronting Bias through Gender Equity," and Correa and Lai will be organizing conversations through roundtables and other art events with high school and university students at the IMAS museum. These events will tie thematically as precursor conversations to develop programming for the upcoming *Uncovered Spaces* exhibition opening in March 2022, which will include high school student art exhibitions curated by Correa and Lai. This Smithsonian National Youth Summit will combine a series of remote and on-site activities in conjunction to the National Museum of American History's exhibition *Girlhood (It's complicated!)*.



Cristina Correa, MFA

Cristina Correa is a certified art instructor, professional artist, art historian, and is currently teaching Advanced Placement Art at IDEA Public Schools in San Juan. Cristina holds an MFA from UTRGV and a BFA in Mass Communications and Graphic Design from Texas Women's University.



Fatima Lai, MFA

Fatima Lai is a certified art teacher and professional artist and is currently teaching at Rivera Early College High School in the Brownsville Independent School District. She holds an MFA from UTRGV with certificates in both Latin American Art History and Mexican American Studies. In addition, she holds a BA in Art (cum laude) and an AA in Fine Arts from the University of Texas at Brownsville.



Smithsonian

NEW EXHIBITIONS

UNCOVERED SPACES

MARCH 19-JULY 9, 2022
INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM OF ART & SCIENCE (IMAS)

Exhibition Director:
Dr. Katherine Moore McAllen
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Exhibition Curator:
Raheleh Filsoofi
Vanderbilt University

Participating Artists:

María Magdalena Campos-Pons
Wendy Red Star
Margarita Cabrera
Vesna Pavlović
Jana Harper
Melissa Potter
Daisy Patton
Erika Diamond
Lauren Sandler
Linda Behar
Natalia Arbelaez
Daisy Patton
Erika Diamond
Lauren Sandler
Linda Behar
Zac Thompson
Natalia Arbelaez
María Fernanda Barrero
Rebecca Vandiver

Alice Kleberg Reynolds
Foundation



Uncovered Spaces is an exhibition and event series centered on female artists, including young women, queer, and non-binary artists (LGBTQIA+), concerning the social structures that mediate our everyday experiences. *Uncovered Spaces* will articulate ideas through art that relate to women's cultural expectations and social norms that challenge or oppress women, as well as ways that protect and support them. This international exhibition will open from March through August in 2022 at the International Museum of Art & Science (IMAS) in McAllen, Texas. Participating artists and scholars have been invited through a curatorial process that values a diversity of perspectives. The event venues will serve as a space for women, female-iden-

tifying artists, non-binary artists (LGBTQIA+), and scholars to discuss their work, research, interests, and strengths regarding gender and identity and social norms. The project also seeks to reveal connections between the creative process, feminine solidarity, diversity, and shared knowledge while creating a model for a community arts-based research project in south Texas. While our main concern is to examine how art can engage and offer a critical re-thinking of current social and political issues, the broader implications touch upon the foundations of art practice and our many lives' existential issues. This exhibition is also supported by the Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation.



NEW PUBLICATIONS THOMA FOUNDATION

LALVC Journal

University of California Press

JULY & OCTOBER 2021

The Thoma Foundation continues to be a pivotal source of support for Latin American Art History, and it has been influential since the Center's founding in 2019-2020 with Director Dr. Katherine McAllen serving as the inaugural Marilyn Thoma Post-Doctoral fellow. Twelve of the contributing papers delivered at the *Thoma Congreso* in Lima, Perú in 2019 will be published in a two-part Dialogues section in the *Latin American and Latinx Visual Culture Journal* volume 3.3 and volume 3.4. These Thoma Dialogues, which will appear in July and October 2021 in the *LALVC* journal, are authored and edited by Katherine Moore McAllen and Verónica Muñoz-Nájar. The Thoma Dialogues will be published online in Spanish with an English appendix.

Authors include Luisa Elena Alcalá (Universidad Autónoma of Madrid), Tom Cummins (Harvard University), Lucila Iglesias (Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero, Buenos Aires), Leslie Todd (Sewanee University), Hugo A.F. Rocha (Colegio de Michoacán), Emily Floyd (University College London), Sara Garzón (Cornell University), Diana Castillo Cerf (Universidad Autónoma de México and Centro de Investigación y Conservación del Patrimonio, UTEC, Perú), Andrés De Leo (Universidad Autónoma de México and Centro de Investigación y Conservación del Patrimonio, UTEC, Perú).



AN ITINERANT FEAST: A HISTORY OF PERUVIAN FOOD FROM COAST TO CORDILLERA

A new book by Dr. Robert Bradley
published by University of Oklahoma Press



UNIVERSITY OF
OKLAHOMA PRESS

"Twenty years of exquisite digressions from archaeology formed *An Itinerant Feast: History of Peruvian Food from Coast to Cordillera*. Today, Peru is rightly recognized as the number one food destination on the planet. But two decades ago, the world's culinary critics had their attention focused elsewhere. Fortunately, I did not. This book is a culmination of numerous personal discoveries about the food and the history of Peru. Because of Peru's current culinary florescence, this text will certainly be of great interest everyone from the epicurean to the curious. Nicolas Gill wrote in 2012, 'Compared with Mexican or even Brazilian food, Peruvian food is one of the least explored in terms of cookbooks – at least in the English language. There is an increasing amount of excellent culinary literature being produced in Peru, though outside of the

region, readers are limited to just a few books.' [1] Even though much has changed since 2012—i.e., Peruvian chef Virgilio Martínez (owner of Central Restaurante in Lima) receiving the 2017 Chef's Choice Award as the best chef in the world—Peru is still perfectly positioned as the epicenter of new culinary interest." - Dr. Robert Bradley

The CLAA has supported the publication of *An Itinerant Feast: A History of Peruvian Food From Coast to Cordillera*, at the University of Oklahoma Press, Associate Dean of Honor's College and Professor of Art History Dr. Robert Bradley. This publication covers extensive cultural and historical research on Peruvian cuisine and provides a substantial resource for students and academics alike.

[1] Food + Drink , accessed July 13, 2021, <http://newworldreview.com/category/food/>.

UPCOMING FALL EVENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HOSTILE TERRAIN EXHIBITION AT UTRGV

NOVEMBER 9-11, 2021

CLAA Artists Summit and Workshop: Cultivating Compassion for Migrants through Fine Arts and Prose

In addition to our upcoming exhibition *Uncovered Spaces*, the Center for Latin American Arts plans to host an event in conjunction with the Migration Narratives project and the *Hostile Terrain* exhibition at UTRGV. The planned event will be a collaboration between Sister Norma Pimentel, the Executive Director of the Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley (CCRGV), food historian and writer Melissa Guerra, MFA, and artist Rigoberto González, winner of the 2021 Migration Narratives grant.

This event will address issues related to immigration and share experiences and storytelling through art, creative writing, and other discourses on the borderlands.



Melissa Guerra, UTRGV MFA



Rigoberto González, MFA, UTRGV School of Art



Sister Norma Pimentel, Executive Director of the Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley (CCRGV), MS

UPCOMING MUSIC WORKSHOPS

Due to unforeseen circumstances brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the music event “Expanding Access to Music Education Through Modern Band” was postponed but has been successfully rescheduled for this upcoming Fall 2021 semester. Executive Committee Member and Professor of Music, Dr. Virginia Davis, will chair this event with invited music scholars and artists Dr. Bryan Powell of Montclair State University (New Jersey) and Dr. Gareth Dylan Smith of Boston University (Massachusetts). This series of workshops will serve UTRGV students and public schools.

Dr. Bryan Powell is a professional musician and leads Higher Education Initiatives for Little Kids Rock. He is currently Assistant Professor of Music Education and Music Technology at Montclair State University and former Director of Programs for Amp Up NYC, a partnership between Berklee College of Music and Little Kids Rock. Dr. Gareth Dylan Smith is a professional musician, researcher, speaker, and founder of International Music Education Research Centre (iMerc, London, United Kingdom). He is currently Assistant Professor of Music Education at Boston University.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO MUSIC EDUCATION THROUGH MODERN BAND



Dr. Bryan Powell
Montclair State University

Dr. Gareth Dylan Smith
Boston University

APPEARANCES:
RGV Orff Chapter
Teacher Workshop

UTRGV Campus

FALL 2021
Modern Band in the
Secondary Schools



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www.utrgv.edu/claa

UTRGV
School of Music

UTRGV
Center for
Latin American Arts



CENTER LEADERSHIP



Dr. Steven Block
Dean of the College of Fine Arts



Dr. Katherine Moore McAllen
Director Center for Latin American Arts
and Assistant Professor of Art History



Dr. Block is Dean of the College of Fine Arts at UTRGV after having served as Chair of the Department of Music at the University of New Mexico for 17 years. Dean Block has appeared in various roles as composer, music theorist, music critic, pianist, and both classical radio and disco D.J. His compositions have been performed worldwide in Cuba, Australia, France, and Poland. His articles as a music theorist and music critic have appeared in such journals and magazines as *Perspectives of New Music*, *Integrals*, *Music Theory Spectrum*, the *Journal of Music Theory*, the *Annual Review of Jazz Studies*, *Music Library Notes*, and *High Fidelity*.

Dr. McAllen is the Director of the CLAA. She was the 2019-2020 Marilyn Thoma Post-Doctoral fellow, and her research examines art production and cultural exchange between the viceroyalties of New Spain, Peru, and Early Modern Europe, as well as the history of art and architecture of northern New Spain. Dr. McAllen's recent publications appeared in 2019 in the *Journal of Jesuit Studies*, in 2018 in the exhibition catalogue *San Antonio 1718* published by Trinity University press, and in 2017 *The New World in Early Modern Italy, 1492-1750* published by Cambridge University Press. She is currently working on publishing a two-part bilingual publication of twelve papers delivered at the 2019 *Thoma Congreso* in the *Latin American and Latinx Visual Culture Journal*, vol. 3.3 and vol 3.4, under the title *Thoma Dialogues: Arte Virreinal, el future del arte del pasado*.



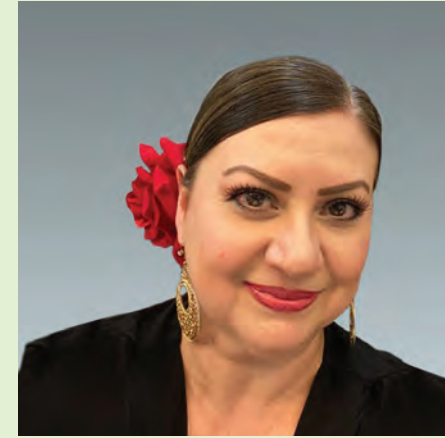
FACULTY LEADERSHIP AND CLAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Dr. Andrés Amado
Associate Professor of Music



Dr. Robert Bradley
Professor of Art History
Associate Dean of Honors College



Sonia Chapa
Lecturer of Dance
Director of the UTRGV *Ballet Español*



Dr. Eric Wiley
Professor of Theatre
Director of the Latino Theatre Initiatives



Miguel Peña
Assistant Professor of Dance
Director of the UTRGV *Ballet Folklórico*



Dr. Virginia Davis
Professor of Music



Miguel Peña is a professional dancer, choreographer, Assistant Professor in the Department of Dance, and Director of the UTRGV *Ballet Folklórico* program, as well as a member of the Executive Committee



The Center has supported Miguel Peña and his students in the *Ballet Folklórico* dance company to host workshops and dance clinics at more than 20 public elementary, middle and high schools. These outreach programs in public school help students dedicate their future to higher education while also learning about dance theory presentation, practical dance techniques, and the aesthetic value of performing in intricate traditional costumes with elaborate props.

Miguel Peña also played an important leadership role at the Center for Latin American Arts inviting the internationally acclaimed *Ballet Folklórico de la Universidad Veracruzana* to UTRGV to perform in Edinburg and Brownsville in December 2019. He is currently working to secure a formal alliance with the *Ballet Folklórico de la Universidad*

Veracruzana and UTRGV, for visiting faculty, lecturers, and dance instructors. The Center is in the final stages for university approval of the memorandum of understanding.

The *Ballet Folklórico* program consists of 32 students who are pursuing degrees in a variety of dance and music disciplines led by Director Peña. The *Ballet Folklórico* dance company travels to national and international competitions to perform, including the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington D.C. and venues in France, Italy, and Mexico. The Center for Latin American Arts helps promote and support the *Ballet Folklórico* company to provide its dancers opportunities to make a greater educational and creative impact in our community and beyond.



Dr. Robert Bradley is the Associate Dean of Honor's College, Professor of Art History at the UTRGV School of Art, and member of the Executive Committee at the Center for Latin American Arts

Dr. Robert Bradley recently received funding awards from the CLAA to publish his book *An Itinerant Feast: A History of Peruvian Food From Coast to Cordillera*, at the University of Oklahoma Press. This publication covers extensive cultural and historical research on Peruvian cuisine and provides a substantial resource for students and academics alike.

This past February 19, 2020, Dr. Robert Bradley and Dr. Alan Earhart, Director of International Programs and Partnerships hosted a highly attended presentation entitled "Study Abroad Social Perú from Coastal Origins to Highland Expansion" at the CLAA physical space. Students were served lunch and had one-one interactions about study abroad



programs funding. Annually Dr. Robert Bradley has lead art historical, archeological, anthropological research studies and hiking excursions in Peru, along with the participation CLAA Director Dr. Katherine McAllen for years 2017-2019.

Professor Robert Bradley has a Ph.D. in Art History and Archaeology from Columbia University. Currently he is a Professor at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. He has written a monograph entitled *The Architecture of Kuelap* (VDM, 2008) and his recent publications include "Sudado de Raya: an Ancient Peruvian Dish in the winter" 2012 issue of *Gastronomica*, *Coca: An Andean Daily Chew in Cualli: Latin American and Iberian Food Studies Review*, and *A Western Mirage on the Bolivian Altiplano in Buen Gusto and Classicism in the Visual Cultures of Latin America, 1780-1910* (University of New Mexico Press, 2013). *Architectural Anomalies in the Northeastern Forest of Peru in Visual Culture of the Ancient Americas: Contemporary Perspectives*, edited by Andrew Finegold and Ellen Hoobler, University of Oklahoma Press has been published



in 2017. In progress is *The Life catfish in Pre-Columbian Moche Art and Culture, in Andean Foodways: Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Pre-Columbian, Colonial, Contemporary and Symbolic significance of Food and Cuisines in South America*, edited by John Staller and Robert Bradley and finally "Innovative Ingesting of Alkaloids in Ancient South America" in peer review for *Gastronomica*, University of California Press.



Dr. Virginia Davis is a Professor at the UTRGV School of Music and member of the Executive Committee at the Center for Latin American Art

Dr. Virginia Davis has taken a proactive role at the Center for Latin American Arts by inviting and facilitating guest interactive music workshops featuring Dr. Bryan Powel and Dr. Kat Rheinhert. In September 2020, the CLAA hosted the “UKE Can Do It” workshop with Dr. Bryan Powel of Little Kids Rock and Montclair University. Over 50 attendees including public school teachers and UTRGV students virtually engaged in popular teaching pedagogy practices, folk music, and the ukulele. Later this year in 2021, Dr. Davis hosted two intimate voice workshops (“Contemporary Vocals” on April

THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS
presents
Popular Music Pedagogy
with Dr. Virginia Davis
Led by

Kat Rheinhert

Getting Started with Songwriting
April 1, 6:00 - 8:00 pm CT
Zoom Meeting ID: 893 2951 6329

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1, 2021 and “Getting Started on Songwriting” on April, 2021) with Dr. Kat Rheinhert, the President of the Association for Popular Music Education. UTRGV music students enrolled in Dr. Virginia Davis “Popular Music Pedagogy” course, received one-on-one professional advice on vocals, teaching, professional development, and creativity. Dr. Davis is currently working on more collaborative artist projects and liaisons with the Little Kids Rock education program and Berkeley College of Music. This program led by Dr. Davis provides free instruments and intensive teacher-training workshops

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Contemporary Vocals
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Passcode: MUSIC

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for local public-school music teachers to familiarize them with best practices in using vernacular music in the classroom. These experts in modern band and teacher education have been invited to teach in-person new methods to engaged students in active music making, composition, and improvisation to help sustain the Valley’s rich cultural heritage.



Dr. Eric Wiley is a Professor in the UTRGV Department of Theatre, and the Director of the Latino Theatre Initiatives, as well as a member of the Executive Committee at the Center for Latin American Arts

Dr. Eric Wiley has been instrumental in realizing theatre events sponsored by the Center in conjunction with the Latino Theatre Initiatives. Since the Center's 2019 inception, visiting playwright Columbian artist Mario Lamo-Jiménez attracted highly attended events for both Fall 2019 and Spring 2020. In 2020, the play *El Pequeño Gran Circo de Ilusiones*, was sponsored by the Center, at Brewster School with an attendance of 225. A second play took place, which included parents totaling 350 attendees, followed by a performance at the Vela High School with an attendance of 150. A third performance at Donna ensued with 850 students and 50 teachers. A celebratory dinner followed suit with 45 students and 3 faculty present. In addition, the Center sponsored the International Latino Theater Festival. Dr. Eric Wiley is the UTRGV



Program Advisor for the Latino Theatre Initiatives, Professor in the Department of Theatre, and a member of the Executive Committee at the Center for Latin American Arts, Dr. Wiley successfully transitioned to virtual events with a short video project entitled *Cerebritos* science video series with 60 total attendees (20 in person) this Fall 2020. *Cerebritos* produced Center student success highlights with graphic design student Yadira Hernández and LTI members Alondra De Hoyos and Santos Reyna.

Since then, Dr. Wiley has maintained correspondence with Mario Lamo-Jiménez. Mario was profoundly impacted by his Rio Grande Valley visit with students in the K-12 and UTRGV. He wrote: "This was a fascinating intercultural experience for me to see first-hand the level of organization and professionalism with which my play was put together, and how the message of the play resonated with audiences in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas along the border. Both the children and the adults I spoke with expressed their admiration for the play



and the characters. I could see that they were really excited to talk to me as the author of the play, and I was just as excited to hear their impressions. My experience talking to the students and even their families about the play was very enriching, since they had very good questions about the content and message of the play, and at the same time, I had the opportunity to learn about their motivations to study theater and what their life was like living in a bilingual environment and at a university that offered them all the technical resources to create wonderful characters on stage and advance their professional lives.

For me, to see how Dr. Eric Willey, had interpreted and staged my play, was a beautiful surprise. I saw the love and creativity that had gone into every detail and how the characters and the plot wrapped up the spectators through what could have been just another circus show. But this play turned out to be an unparalleled action, music and dance performance."



CLAA 2020-2021 HIGHLIGHTS



UKE CAN DO IT!
by Dr. Bryan Powell
Montclair State University

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE UKULELE WITH POPULAR MUSIC PEDAGOGY

ZOOM MEETING LINK
<https://utrgv.zoom.us/j/92265367959>

Wednesday
September 16, 2020
from 11-12pm.

Dr. Bryan Powell
Montclair State University

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thoma FOUNDATION

CONGRESO DE ARTE VIRREINAL
13-15 DE JULIO 2021

DIÁLOGOS THOMIA
EL FUTURO DEL ARTE DEL PASADO
Volúmenes 22 2021

LATIN AMERICAN & LATINX VISUAL CULTURE

NORESTE
A Virtual Art Exhibition

Rigoberto González César Martínez Mario Jiménez Díaz

www.utrgv.edu/claa

JOIN US FOR THIS LIVE ZOOM EVENT
ON TUESDAY OCTOBER 13TH AT 5:00 PM CST

MODERATED BY DR. PATRICIA RUIZ-HEALY
AND DR. CHRISTEN GARCÍA

ZOOM MEETING REGISTRATION AND ID:
82161814858

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Center for Latin American Arts



Tucson Museum of Art

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CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS

PRESENTS A TALK BY: DR. KRISTOPHER DRIGGERS, THE BERNARD AND SCHMIDT CURATOR OF LATIN AMERICAN ART

TUCSON MUSEUM of ART
AND HISTORIC BLOCK

JOIN US FOR THIS LIVE ZOOM EVENT
ON WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14TH
5:00 PM CST

**"OBJECT HISTORIES AND COMM
EXPERTISE: CURATING LATIN AM
ART IN 2020"**



Join us for a lecture hosted by
THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS

Akemi Luisa Herráez, CSA Curatorial Fellow
The Meadows Museum, SMU Dallas

Curatorial Internships
and Fellowships:
Preparation, Experiences
and Advice

Thursday November 19th at 5:30pm
ZOOM ID: 840 6399 5917
www.utrgv.edu/CLAA

CLAA Roundtable Event
Peru's Bicentenary
Materiality, Invisibility, Erasure, and Reinvention

Wednesday, February 24th, 2:00pm CST

Natalia Majluf Independent Scholar	Elena Phipps University of California Los Angeles
Veronica Muñoz-Najar Luque University of California Berkeley	Leslie Todd Sewanee The University of the South
Katherine Moore McAllen University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	Grace Alexandrino Ocaña Stanford University

Register in Advance
ZOOM 810 8079 6389
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THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS
IS HOSTING A

**Spring
Registration
Social**

WEDNESDAY / FEB 24TH / 12:00PM
ZOOM ID 878 3103 9754

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

FEBRUARY 1ST
SCHOLARSHIPS DEADLINE
SEE THE UNIVERSITY PORTAL FOR APPLICATIONS:
WWW.UTRGV.EDU/SCHOLARSHIPS/

MARCH 1ST
REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER OPENS

MARCH 29TH
REGISTRATION FOR FALL OPENS

APRIL 6TH
LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW/DROP FOR THE SPRING SEMESTER

****Don't Forget****

MARCH 1ST
COMPLETE FAFSA & TAFSA FOR POTENTIAL CONSIDERATION
FOR THE TUITION ADVANTAGE PROGRAM

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**STUDIO
VISITS**

RIGOBERTO GONZÁLEZ




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**Kat
Reinhert**

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**Kat
Reinhert**

Getting Started with Songwriting

April 1, 6:00 - 8:00 pm CT
Zoom Meeting ID: 893 2951 6329

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CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS WHO WE ARE

The Center is led by:

Dr. Steven Block

Dean-College of Fine Arts

Dr. Katherine Moore McAllen

Assistant Professor of Art History

Director-Center for Latin American Arts

Executive Committee:

Dr. Andrés Amado

Associate Professor of Music

Dr. Robert Bradley

Professor of Art History

Associate Dean of Honors College

Sonia Chapa

Lecturer of Dance

Director of the UTRGV *Ballet Español*

Dr. Virginia Davis

Professor of Music

Miguel Peña

Assistant Professor of Dance

Director of the UTRGV *Ballet Folklórico*

Dr. Eric Wiley

Professor of Theatre

Director of the Latino Theatre Initiatives

CLAA Staff:

Carlos Limas

MFA: Program Specialist and Chief Coordinator
of Media and Graphic Design

Carol Lopez

MA: Chief Administration and Education Liaison

Ángela Scardigno

MFA: Assistant Coordinator of Media Design and Communications

Daniel Ymbong

MA: Curatorial and Special Events and Social Media Associate



WHERE WE ARE

The Center for Latin American Arts is located at:
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
1201 W University Drive, Edinburg, Texas 78541

In the Edinburg Library on the 2nd Floor: ELIBR 2.114
In Brownsville in the UTRGV Music, Science &
Learning Center: BMSLC 2.210

SOCIAL MEDIA

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YouTube

Center for Latin American Arts

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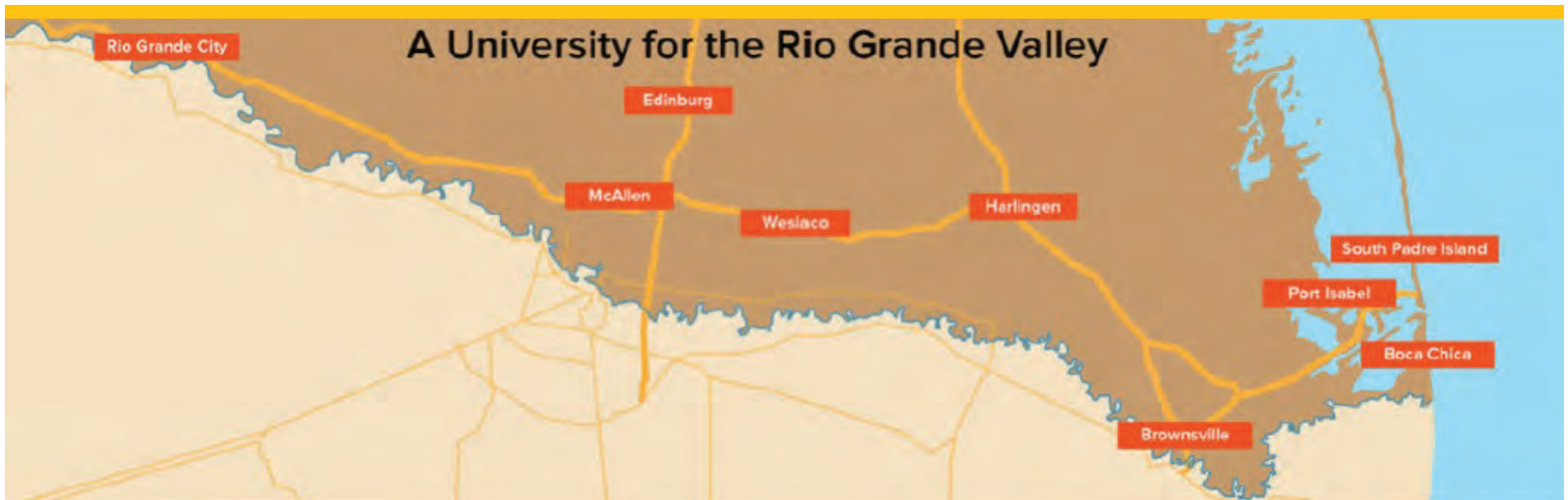
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Detail of *Nuestra Señora de Belén con un donante* (Our Lady of Bethlehem with a Donor), anonymous artist, 18th century oil on canvas, 267 x 185 x 6 cm (105 1/4 x 73 x 2 1/2 in.) Collection of Carl & Marilyn Thoma PL2016.110 at the Blanton Museum of Art (Austin, Texas).