

July 03, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

El Cuerpo: The (Performing) Body and the Photographic Stage
Curated by Christina Fernandez
July 13 – September 14, 2024

Artists Reception: Saturday, July 13th - 6–8pm

Gallery Luisotti is very pleased to present *El Cuerpo: The (Performing) Body and the Photographic Stage*, a group show curated by artist Christina Fernandez, opening on July 13, 2024. Fernandez selected works by seven conceptual photographers based in the Los Angeles area, whose performative actions are intended to be seen in the form of the still image. The artists are William Camargo, James Francisco Garcia, Arlene Mejorado, Star Montana, Aydinaneth Ortiz, Juan Manuel Valenzuela, and Christopher Anthony Velasco.

Living and working in Southern California, these young Chicano/a artists have formed a community of peers and are supported by each other artistically, professionally, and socially. Their work is informed by a shared Latinx history and lineage that includes ASCO's "No Movies", work by Laura Aguilar, as well as photographs by Fernandez herself, all of whom devised performative gestures for the camera.

El Cuerpo: The (Performing) Body and the Photographic Stage features work in which the artist is both the maker and the subject. Each artist constructs situations that are performed in front of the camera, and in doing so demonstrates an awareness of conditions of self-presentation. This includes considering oneself within the built environment or surrounding landscape—and, more specifically, in relation to Los Angeles as a place and its complex conditions as a backdrop.

The featured works range in content from presentations of the body through portraits and self-portraits, to depictions of mundane middle-class experiences, to politicized interactions with gendered settings and situations. Personal rituals, intimate sexual imagery, and intricate family experiences are all part of the artists' performative acts for the camera. The results are excavations of individual identities contextualized through experiences of the city and its suburbs and underpinned by conceptual approaches to image making rather than by social documentary or narrative photography.

For additional information about the exhibition please contact Theresa Luisotti at info@galleryluisotti.com or visit our website: www.galleryluisotti.com

Gallery Luisotti, 818 S. Broadway, 10th fl., Los Angeles, CA 90014, 310-600-1277

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Artist Biographies for *El Cuerpo: The (Performing) Body and the Photographic Stage*

Curator Biography

Christina Fernandez (b. 1965) a Los Angeles based artist, has spent over three decades conducting rich explorations of migration, labor, gender, her Mexican American identity, and the capacities of photography itself. Fernandez earned her BA at UCLA and her MFA at CalArts, she is an Associate Professor at Cerritos College. Fernandez's projects have been featured in major exhibitions including *Home—So Different, So Appealing* (LACMA, 2017), *Phantom Sightings: Art after the Chicano Movement* (LACMA, 2008), *East of the River: Chicano Art Collectors Anonymous* (SMMA, 2000), *Flight Patterns* (MOCA, LA, 2000), and *InSite97* (San Diego and Tijuana, 1997). Her work has also been exhibited at The Getty Museum, Smithsonian American Art Museum, MoMA, NY and the National Gallery of Art, Wash. DC, amongst others. In 2021, Fernandez was one of the first artists honored with the prestigious Latinx Artist Fellowship, an initiative of the US Latinx Art Forum. *Christina Fernandez: Multiple Exposures* is her first major monographic museum exhibition.

Artist Biographies

William Camargo (b. 1989) born and raised in Anaheim, is a photo-based artist, curator and educator, with an MFA from Claremont University and BFA from Cal State Fullerton. Camargo's work focuses on Chicana/Latina histories, gentrification, and police violence. The founder and curator of Latinx Diaspora Archives, Camargo's works are also in several public and private collections, including Harvard Library, The Huntington Museum, LACMA, and The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, amongst others.

James Francisco Garcia (b. 1997) is a self-taught photographer from El Monte, CA, where he lives and works. Garcia's work aims to use the complex relations between the body, family, and the urban landscape to explore the themes of class, desire, and body identity. In 2019 Garcia's work was featured in a project for the Whitney Biennial organized by Paul Mpagi Sepuya.

Arlene Mejorado (b. 1987) is a Los Angeles born artist working with analog and digital photography, film, video, archives, and mixed-media installations. She has an MFA in Visual Arts from UCSD and a BA in Latin American Studies at Univ Texas in Austin. Informed by her upbringing in a migrant household, she is interested in diasporic repair. Mejorado's work has been exhibited at ICA San Diego, LA Metro Art and CMP at UC Riverside Arts.

Star Montana (b.1987) is a photo-based artist who was born and raised in the Boyle Heights, a Los Angeles neighborhood, which serves as the backdrop to much of her work. Montana has an MFA from USC, Los Angeles and a BFA in Photography from the School of Visual Arts, NY. Montana's work has been exhibited at La Plaza de Cultura y Artes, The Mexican Center for Culture and Cinematic Arts and the Vincent Price Art Museum.

Aydinaneth Ortiz (b. 1987) lives and works in LA, whose work explores the tension between public and private by exposing intimate and familial situations through her investigation of drug addiction, immigration, and mental illness. Ortiz is a Photography Professor at Cypress College has an MFA from CalArts and a BA in Art from UCLA. Ortiz's work is in the collections of the Benton Museum of Art and the Museum of Latin American Art, amongst others.

Juan Manuel Valenzuela (b. 1974) lives and works in Los Angeles and is a photo-based artist whose practice criticizes and redefines conventions focused on culture, identity, and stereotypes at the crossroads of being a Mexican American. Valenzuela studied photography at Cerritos College and has exhibited in Southern California and Mexico.

Christopher Anthony Velasco (b. 1983) is a photographer and performance artist who lives and works in Los Angeles and has an MFA from UCSB and BFA from Cal Arts. Velasco's work emphasizes the queer brown body and incorporates camp and horror aesthetics. Featured in exhibitions at AD&A Museum, the Getty Museum, and the Vincent Price Art Museum amongst others, Velasco additionally has performed with Harry Gamoba, Jr. with Virtual Verite.

ARTIST CHECK LIST

El Cuerpo: The (Performing) Body and the Photographic Stage
Curated by Christina Fernandez
(A Group Exhibition) July 13 – Sept. 14, 2024

1



William Camargo

All That I Can Carry #2, 2020

Archival digital pigment print

30 x 24 in. (76.2 x 61 cm)

2



William Camargo

On Becoming A Cholo, Cholo Actor or Brown #1 & #2, 2022

Archival digital pigment prints, hexptych

6 elements, 5 - 5.5 x 6.9 in. prints & 1 - 40 x 32 in. print

3



James Francisco Garcia

A Mother's Touch, 2024

Archival digital black-and-white pigment print

23 x 23 in. (58.4 x 58.4 cm)

4



James Francisco Garcia

Roughhousing, 2023

Archival digital black-and-white pigment print

23 x 23 in. (58.4 x 58.4 cm)

5



James Francisco Garcia

What Lies Within, 2019

Archival digital black-and-white pigment print

23 x 23 in. (58.4 x 58.4 cm)

6



Arlene Mejorado

At the Reseda Theatre with My Cousin Carlos, 2023

Archival digital pigment print

30 x 24 in. (76.2 x 61 cm)

7



Arlene Mejorado

Handling a Mother's Archive #1, 2023

Archival digital pigment print

16 x 20 in. (40.6 x 50.8 cm)

8



Arlene Mejorado

Handling a Mother's Archive #2, 2023

Archival digital pigment print

16 x 20 in. (40.6 x 50.8 cm)

9



Arlene Mejorado

I Remember Drawing on my Father's Back with a Ballpoint Pen, 2023

Archival digital pigment print

24 x 30 in. (61 x 76.2 cm)

10



Arlene Mejorado

Sitting at the Median of Sherman Way, 2023

Archival digital pigment print

24 x 30 in. (61 x 76.2 cm)

11



Star Montana

Los Angeles River Dreaming, 2021

Archival digital pigment print

32 x 40 in. (81.3 x 101.6 cm)

12



Star Montana

Louisa and Little Star Destroyed, 2024

Archival digital pigment print mounted to Dibond

40 x 32 in. (101.6 x 76.2 cm)

13



Star Montana

Star in the Los Angeles River Tunnels, 2021

Archival digital pigment print

40 x 32 in. (101.6 x 81.3 cm)

14



Aydinaneth Ortiz

Reclamando Las Greñas (Reclaiming the Hair), 2024

Archival digital pigment print

53 x 40 in. (127 x 101.6 cm)

15



Juan Manuel Valenzuela

#1, I go on and on, can't understand how I last so long, I must have superpowers, 2022

Transparency film mounted to custom-made LED lightbox
8 x 10 in. (20.3 x 25.4 cm)

16



Juan Manuel Valenzuela

#2, I go on and on, can't understand how I last so long, I must have superpowers, 2022

Transparency film mounted to custom-made LED lightbox
8 x 10 in. (20.3 x 25.4 cm)

17

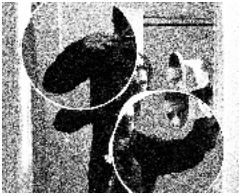


Juan Manuel Valenzuela

#2, Marrano Beach Club, 2024

Chromogenic color print mounted to Dibond
30 x 40 in. (76.2 x 101.6 cm)

18



Christopher Anthony Velasco

Meshes of an Afternoon, 2023

Archival digital pigment print
17 x 22 in. (43.2 x 55.9 cm)

19



Christopher Anthony Velasco

My Aunt Marge #1, 2016

Archival digital pigment print
13 x 19 in. (33 x 48.3 cm)

20



Christopher Anthony Velasco

To the Best of My Recollection #3, 2009

Archival digital pigment prints, diptych
ea. 4 x 6 in. prints (10.2 x 30.5 cm), 4 x 12 in

21



Christopher Anthony Velasco

Krystal is the Silver-Haired Witch, 2022

Archival digital pigment prints
22 x 17 in. (55.9 x 43.2 cm)