FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Immigrant Artist Biennial 2020: Here, Together!

Curated By: Katya Grokhovsky

March 18–May 9, 2020

Opening reception:
Wednesday, March 18, 2020, 5-8 pm

Artists: Blanka Amezkua, Esperanza Cortés, Bahareh Khoshooe, Daniela Kostova, Cole Lu, Ana Mendieta, Levan Mindiashvili, Qinza Najm, Anna Parisi, daâPò réo, Yali Romagoza

EFA Project Space, 323 West 39th Street, 2nd Floor, NYC, between 8th & 9th Aves.
Hours: Wednesday–Saturday, 12–6 pm, and by appointment
www.projectspace-efanyc.org projectspace@efanyc.org 212-563-5855 ext 244

EFA Project Space is thrilled to present the inaugural edition of The Immigrant Artist Biennial (TIAB): Here, Together!, the biennial’s central group exhibition of multidisciplinary works by eleven New York-based immigrant artists, curated by Katya Grokhovsky. Here, Together! explores displacement, separation, alienation, and the steady erosion of the American Empire.

At a time when our country is witnessing extreme anti-immigrant sentiment, coupled with a global rhetoric of exclusion, nationalism, and discrimination, Here, Together! calls for urgent unity, visibility, and criticality, by facilitating a necessary platform of cultural exchange.

In Here, Together!, Foreign-born, US-based practitioners of diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds engage in a historical dialogue with each other, establishing a legacy and lineage of deeply involved politically and personally charged inquiries. Grappling with issues of identity, the meaning of home and place, and the consistent, looming threats of erasure, removal, and cultural whitewashing, the selected artists call forth the power dynamics and hierarchies of a late stage struggling capitalist society in dire need of compassion and humanity. The work highlights efforts to create a common ground and a global community.

For a full list of related events, visit https://www.projectspace-efanyc.org/events.

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Katya Grokhovsky was born in Ukraine, raised in Australia and is based in NYC. She is an artist, independent curator, educator and a Founding Artistic Director of The Immigrant Artist Biennial (TIAB). Grokhovsky holds an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, a BFA from Victorian College of the Arts and a BA (Honors) in Fashion from Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. Grokhovsky has received support through numerous
residencies and fellowships including Kickstarter Creator in Residence, Pratt Fine Arts Department Artist in Residence, Wythe Hotel Residency, Art and Law Fellowship, The Museum of Arts and Design (MAD) Studios Program, BRICworkspace Residency, Ox-BOW School of Art Residency, Wassaic Artist Residency, Atlantic Center for the Arts Associate Artist in Residence, Studios at MASS MoCA, VOX Populi Curatorial Fellowship, NARS Residency, Santa Fe Art Institute Residency, Watermill Center Residency and more. She has been awarded the Brooklyn Arts Council Grant, NYFA Fiscal Sponsorship, ArtSlant 2017 Prize, Asylum Arts Grant, Chashama space to create grant, Australia Council for the Arts ArtStart Grant, NYFA Mentoring Program for Immigrant Artists, Freedman Traveling Scholarship for Emerging Artists and others. She has curated numerous exhibitions and events, including: Art in Odd Places 2018: “BODY”, “Soft Power” at Lesley Heller Gallery, “She’s a Maniac” at Kunstraum Gallery, “Call of the Wild: Pioneers, Rebels and Heroines” at Vox Populi and more. Her work has been exhibited extensively.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Blanka Amezkua** is a Mexican born bicultural (Mexico/USA) mestiza artist, cultural promoter, educator and project initiator based in South Bronx. Formally trained as a painter, her practice is greatly influenced and informed by folk art and popular culture. In 2008 she began an artist-run project in her bedroom called the Bronx Blue Bedroom Project (BBBP). BBBP ran from 2008-2010. She currently runs AAA3A (Alexander Avenue Apartment 3A) an alternative artist-run project which offers food, dialogue, workshops, and art in her living room. She is a member and she actively supports Running For Ayotzinapa 43, an international community of amateur athletes based in NYC. They run for truth and justice for the Ayotzinapa 43, for the tens of thousands of disappeared in Mexico, and to promote a dialogue and consciousness concerning human rights violations worldwide. Mentions of her work and projects can be found in various notable national and international publications.

**Esperanza Cortés** is a Colombian born multidisciplinary artist based in New York City. Cortés’s exhibitions include, Smack Mellon Gallery, Neuberger Museum of Art, Bronx Museum of Art, Queens Museum, El Museo Del Barrio, MoMA PS1, Socrates Sculpture Park, Artist Space and New York State Biennial. National exhibitions include Jonathan Ferrara Gallery, LA, Helen Day Art Center, VT and Cleveland Art Museum, OH. International exhibitions include Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Japan, Mexico, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Spain and Greece. Awards include: John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship, BRIC Media Arts Fellowship, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Grant, Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters & Sculptors Grant and Puffin Foundation Grant. Residencies include: McColl Center for Arts + Innovation, Museum of Arts and Design, Caldera Residency, BRIC Workspace Program, Joan Mitchell Center, Sculpture Space, The Fountainhead, Socrates Sculpture Park, Brooklyn Children’s Museum, Bronx Museum AIM Program, MoMA PS1 International Studio Program, Bielska BWA Gallery, Altos de Chavon. Reviews include: Art Forum, Artnet, Hyperallergic, Artnews, New York Times, New Art Examiner, Art in America, Art Nexus and Whitehot. Interviews on public television and radio in the USA, Europe, South America and the Caribbean. Cortés’s work is in private and public collections including the American Embassy in Monterey, Mexico.

**Bahareh Khoshooee** was born in Tehran, Iran. Khoshooee had three solo exhibitions in 2019 at Elijah Wheat Showroom (New York), Tikhonova Wintner Gallery (New York), and Coco Hunday (Tampa). She recently exhibited an installation at NADA MIAMI 2018 and Orlando Museum of Art (Orlando), a solo exhibition at Elsewhere (New York), and a two-person show with Aruni Dharmakirthi at Housing (New York). Khoshooee has been included in group exhibitions at C24 Gallery (New York), Museum of Photography (Stokholm), 2018 Taiwan Annual, Fajr International Film Festival 2018 (Tehran), and Untitled Art Fair 2017 (Miami). Khoshooee served as an artist-in-residence at Skowhegan School of Art and Painting 2018, Triangle 2018, Ox-Bow 2017, and ACRE Residency 2016. Through her practice Khoshooee explores the concept of self and other, technology and its imperfection, diaspora and fragmentation.
Daniela Kostova is an interdisciplinary artist who works with photography, installation, performance and video. Her projects address issues of geography and cultural representation, the production and crossing of socio-cultural borders, and the uneasy process of translation and communication. Her work is exhibited at venues such as Queens Museum of Art (NY), Kunsthalle Wien (Austria), Institute for Contemporary Art (Sofia), Centre d’art Contemporain (Geneva), Antakya Biennale (Turkey), Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, (Torino), Kunsthalle Fridericianum (Kassel) and many others. In the summer of 2019, Daniela was commissioned by VIG to wrap the well-known Ringturm building in Vienna, Austria. Her piece “Future Dreaming” spread on 4000 sq. meters represents one of the biggest public art display in Europe. In 2016 she had a solo show as an A.I.R. Gallery Fellow in NYC and was a resident at the Center for Art and Urbanism (ZK/U), Berlin. In 2011, Daniela won the Unlimited Award for Contemporary Bulgarian Art. In 2009, 2007 and 2006 she received travel grants from NYFA, the American Foundation for Bulgaria and the European Cultural Foundation. Daniela’s work is reviewed in New York Times, Brooklyn Rail, Flash Art, Art in America and more. Kostova serves as Director of Curatorial Projects at Radiator Gallery, Artist Mentor at NYFA’s Immigrant Artists Program and Board Member of CEC ArtsLink in New York.

Cole Lu (b. Taipei) is an artist and writer based in New York. Lu’s work has been included in Contemporary Art Museum (St. Louis), Pulitzer Arts Foundation (St. Louis), Institute of Contemporary Art (Philadelphia), American Medium (New York), Vox Populi (Philadelphia), The 3rd New Digital Art Biennale – The Wrong (Again), I Never Read (Basel), FILE: Electronic Language International Festival (São Paulo), Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts (New York), Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts (Omaha), The Luminary (St. Louis), Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (Los Angeles), Syndicate (Cologne), and K-Gold Temporary Gallery (Lesvos). Lu has been awarded fellowship at Vermont Studio Center (Johnson), and residencies at Triangle Arts Association (Brooklyn), The Wassia Project (Wassia), and Minnesota Street Projects (San Francisco). Lu’s Risograph publication, SMELLS LIKE CONTENT (Endless Editions, New York) is in the Artist book collection of the Museum of Modern Art Library (New York).

Ana Mendieta was born in Havana, Cuba, in 1948, and died in New York City in 1985. In a brief yet prolific career, the Cuban-born artist Ana Mendieta created groundbreaking work in photography, film, video, drawing, sculpture, and site-specific installations. Amongst the major themes in her work are exile, displacement, and a return to the landscape, which remain profoundly relevant today. Her unique hybrid of form and documentation, works that she titled “siluetas,” are fugitive and potent traces of the artist’s inscription of her body in the landscape, often transformed by natural elements such as fire and water. The Estate of Ana Mendieta Collection, LLC, in collaboration with Galerie Lelong & Co., recently catalogued and digitized the entirety of Mendieta’s moving image works, discovering that the artist remarkably made more than 100 in the ten-year period in which she worked in the medium. The groundbreaking exhibition of her moving image works, Covered in Time and History: The Films of Ana Mendieta, was organized by the Katherine E. Nash Gallery, University of Minnesota in 2014, and has since travelled to several institutions worldwide, including NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale, Florida; University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive; Bildmuseet, Umeå, Sweden; Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin; and the Galerie nationale du Jeu de Paume, Paris. Mendieta’s work has been the subject of six major museum retrospectives, the most recent of which, Ana Mendieta: Traces, was organized by the Hayward Gallery, England, in 2013, and travelled to the Museum der Moderne Salzburg, Austria, and the Galerie Rudolfinum, Czech Republic. Ana Mendieta: Earth Body, Sculpture and Performance 1972–1985 was organized by the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C., in 2005 a0nd travelled to the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Des Moines Art Center, Iowa; and Miami Art Museum, Florida.

Levan Mindiaashvili is a Georgian born Brooklyn based visual artist who creates immersive modular installations that deal with the fluidity as a current state of being. He questions canonical truths regarding identity, language, and history, and explores expanding fields of contemporary cultural production, including queer underground rave
culture and social sculpture. He holds his BFA from Tbilisi State Academy of Arts and MFA from The National University of Arts of Buenos Aires, Argentina. Among his awards are CreativeTime X Summit grant for creative dinners, AIM Fellowship of The Bronx Museum of The Arts, and Commission for Public Art Projects from The National Endowments for Arts. His works had been included in recent group exhibitions at the SchauFenster, Berlin; SculptureCenter, New York; BRIC Biennial Vol.3, Brooklyn; Recent solo presentations include “89.19” at Berlin Art Fair; “Now is Always Someone Else” NARS Foundation, Brooklyn; “I Should Have Kissed You Longer” Tbilisi; “In Search of The Miraculous,” NADA Miami. His works have been mentioned in OSMOS Magazine, The Art Newspaper, The Observer, ArtAsia Pacific, Hyperallergic, Art Margins, etc. His works are in public collections of Georgian National Museum, State Silk Museum (Tbilisi) and National Art Museum of China (Beijing).

Qinza Najm is a Pakistani-American artist whose interdisciplinary artistic practice explores gendered violence and female subjectivity. Utilizing performance, video, painting, and other mediums, the artist, originally trained as a psychologist, understands herself as a denizen of the world, using artistic means to create empathy and understanding between societies and cultures in order to address the deepest social traumas. Born and raised in Lahore, Pakistan, Najm pursued her studies in fine arts at Bath University and The Art Students League of New York. She has exhibited internationally at the Queens Museum (NY), Christie’s Art (Dubai), Art|Basel (Miami, FL), National Museum of China and the Museum of the Moving Image (NY), among others. Her work has been featured in Artnet News, the Huffington Post, the NY Daily News, International Business Week, Buzzfeed, and Herald. She lives and works in New York.

Anna Parisi is a Brooklyn-based Brazilian artist working predominantly with sculpture and performance. She works across the boundaries of areas and materials with a committed focus on investigating questions that address the traumatic violence against black, female-coded, and historically oppressed bodies by insisting on creating art that opposes structural violence and questions patriarchal, heteronormative, and racial hegemonies. Her works are critically attuned to the current political and socio-cultural contexts. Through both her artistic practice and curatorial work, Anna is interested in addressing issues of racial disparity, gender, human and civil rights from an intersectional perspective. Anna's ideas are nurtured by She is utterly interested in promoting dialogue within African Diasporas and among people of different backgrounds and ethnicities. Anna holds an MFA in Fine Arts from Parsons, The New School of Design in New York, a BFA in Communications with a minor in Filmmaking from the Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio), and an MA in Strategic Design from the Escola Superior de Propaganda e Marketing (ESPM-Rio). She has exhibited or performed at The Hunter East Harlem Art Gallery, La Galleria La Mama, UrbanGlass, The Bureau of General Services—Queer Division and The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center, Smack Mellon, Wesbeth Gallery, Queens Museum, Artigo Rio, Musée D’Elysee in Lausanne, among others.

daàPò reo is a New York-based, Nigerian born visual artist working in textile installation, performance and video. His work probes the boundaries and interactions between surface and structure, representation, and identity. Recently, he returned to his primary love of textiles and needles, venturing into heraldic art and exploring a series of mixed media works that weave sociocultural, economic and political commentaries that are shaping the world today. His practice proposes questions on human consciousness and social responsibility as well as interdependency and self-transformation through personal perspective. His work features the American flag as a recurring motif for its symbolic significance. As one of the most recognizable national banners worldwide, the U.S. flag epitomizes sense of home and pride in one’s identity, but also the face of the Western world, of its imperialistic liberalism and recent drift to the political right, he uses it as a catalyst for conversations, a canvas to crystallize ideas and feelings and cross-examine a variety of themes.

Yali Romagoza (b. in Havana, Cuba, based in NYC) is a multi-disciplinary artist, whose practice reflects on notions of feminism, identity, power and oppression and explores broader issues of migration, politics and social behavior. By constructing her artistic vocabulary through mining her own biography of dislocation and immigration, Romagoza's work examines the cultural displacement and alienation, through a combination of various mediums,

*The Immigrant Artist Biennial (TIAB) 2020: Here Together! is a multi-site project presenting works by 40+ foreign-born, US-based immigrant artists across 6+ NYC venues in March-August 2020. TIAB is Fiscally sponsored by NYFA (New York Foundation for the Arts). EFA Project Space is presenter of TIAB’s central exhibition. The exhibition is made possible in part with public funds from Creative Engagement, supported by New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and administered by LMCC (the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council).

**TIAB 2020 Programming:** March 7th Brooklyn Museum (performance), March 18th – May 9th EFA Project Space (central exhibition), April 24th – May 10th, Cuchifritos Gallery, a program of Artists Alliance Inc. (installation), May 8th – 29th NARS Foundation Gallery (exhibition), June 28th Green-Wood Cemetery (performance), July 8th – August 29th C24 Gallery (exhibition).

[www.theimmigrantartistbiennial.com](http://www.theimmigrantartistbiennial.com)

**PRESS INQUIRIES**

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**ACCESSIBILITY**

EFA Project Space is on the 2nd floor of 323 West 39th Street. The building has an ADA wheelchair accessible elevator that provides access to the gallery from the ground floor. There are all-gender single stall bathrooms and an ADA approved bathroom on the 3rd floor. The space is not scent-free, but we do request that people attending come low-scent. Admission to the building does not require an ID, but you will be asked to sign-in. The closest MTA subway station is the Port Authority A, C, E stop which is ADA wheelchair accessible. Texts and programs are in English. Large format texts can be provided with advance request. EFA Project Space is committed to
nurturing an intergenerational environment and we encourage children & kid noise at our events. Please notify us of any accessibility needs by email to projectspace@efanyc.org, or by phone at (212) 563-5855 x 233.

EFA Project Space, launched in September 2008 as a program of The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, is a collaborative, cross-disciplinary arts venue founded on the belief that art is directly connected to the individuals who produce it, the communities that arise because of it, and to everyday life; and that by providing an arena for exploring these connections, we empower artists to forge new partnerships and encourage the expansion of ideas.

The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts (EFA) is a 501(c)(3) public charity. Through its three core programs, EFA Studios, EFA Project Space, and EFA Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop, EFA is dedicated to providing artists across all disciplines with space, tools and a cooperative forum for the development of individual practice. EFA is a catalyst for cultural growth, stimulating new interactions between artists, creative communities, and the public. www.efanyc.org