The U.S. Latinx Art Forum Announces Program Series Featuring Latinx Artist Fellowship Awardees

New York, NY, October 6, 2021 - The U.S. Latinx Art Forum (USLAF) today announced the launch of “X as Intersection: Latinx Artists in Conversation,” a three-part virtual public program series featuring conversations with fellows from the inaugural cohort of the recently announced Latinx Artist Fellowship. The series kicks off on Wednesday, October 20th with Art In Uncertain Times - an event co-hosted by El Museo del Barrio in New York City and the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, and featuring artists: Elia Alba, Christina Fernandez, Coco Fusco, and Carlos Martiel. Details about additional programs taking place in February and March 2022 and information on how to RSVP can be found by visiting http://uslaf.org/x-as-intersection.

“‘The “X as Intersection: Latinx Artists in Conversation’ series is significant on multiple levels: it not only showcases the cohort of Latinx Artist Fellows, but brings six renowned curators whose work reflects a demonstrated commitment to Latinx art into collaboration with each other,” said Adriana Zavala, PhD, director, US Latinx Art Forum. “USLAF is honored to partner with them to champion and advocate for Latinx artists.”

The three-part series is co-hosted by curators from institutional partners including:

- Rodrigo Moura, Chief Curator, El Museo del Barrio and Mari Carmen Ramírez, Wortham Curator of Latin American Art and Director, International Center for the Arts of the Americas, at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston;
- Sylvia Orozco, Cofounder and Executive Director, Mexic-Arte Museum, Austin and Rita Gonzalez, Terri and Michael Smooke Curator and Department Head of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art; and

“This is a groundbreaking series of conversations in that it will expose audiences to a multi-generational cohort of artists who are transforming our understanding and appreciation of art at a pivotal moment in U.S. history,” said Mari Carmen Ramírez, Wortham Curator of Latin American Art and Director, International Center for the Arts of the Americas, at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. “Of diverse origins and backgrounds that extend from North to South, East and West of the United States, they exemplify the richness, strength and limitless possibilities of the ascendant Latinx population.”

Each conversation in the series will take place virtually and bring together several of the artist fellows in conversation about themes that resonate across their creative practices. Programs include:
El Museo del Barrio (New York, NY) and Museum of Fine Arts (Houston, TX)
Part I | ART IN UNCERTAIN TIMES
October 20, 2021 | 7pm EST

Join Rodrigo Moura, Chief Curator, El Museo del Barrio and Mari Carmen Ramírez, Curator of Latin American Art, the Museum of Fine Arts Houston in a conversation with Latinx Artist Fellowship awardees Elia Alba, Christina Fernandez, Coco Fusco and Carlos Martiel. Throughout their long and diverse careers, these artists have stood out for their direct engagement of real world issues such as social justice, human rights, freedom of speech and activism. Moura and Ramírez will discuss with them the pertinence of their practices for our uncertain times. This program inaugurates a series of artists' talks with fellows of the recently announced Latinx Artist Fellowship.

Mexic-Arte Museum (Austin, TX) & Los Angeles County Museum of Art (Los Angeles, CA)
Part II | RESISTANCE, REAFFIRMATION AND RESILIENCE
February 5, 2022 | 2 pm EST

This panel gathers artists Adriana Corral, rafa esparza, Michael Menchaca, Delilah Montoya, and Celia Álvarez Muñoz, in conversation with Sylvia Orozco, Cofounder and Executive Director, Mexic-Arte Museum, Austin and Rita Gonzalez, Terri and Michael Smooke Curator and Department Head of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The artists will share their experiences and practices from a personal, historical and socio-political perspective of challenging institutional norms.

National Museum of Mexican Art (Chicago, IL) & Whitney Museum of American Art (New York, NY)
Part III | HEALING, JUSTICE AND WORLD-MAKING
March 9, 2022 | 7pm EST

The third and last panel of the inaugural Latinx Artist Fellowship grant brings together artists Vick Quezada, Carolina Caycedo, Miguel Luciano, Guadalupe Maravilla, and Juan Sanchez. Each artist's work explores deeply-rooted beliefs in Indigenous philosophy, environmental justice, and liberation politics to probe forms of world-making that exist outside the framework of Western, neoliberal ideology. This shared concern informs the panel's focus on restorative aesthetics and methods of community building in the praxis of this intergenerational group of artists. This conversation will be led by Marcela Guerrero, Jennifer Rubio Associate Curator, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York and Cesáreo Moreno, Visual Arts Director and Chief Curator, National Museum of Mexican Art, Chicago.

To learn more about each program or to RSVP, visit: http://uslaf.org/x-as-intersection

About the Latinx Artist Fellowship:
Designed to address this systemic and longstanding lack of support, the Latinx Artist Fellowship will award $50,000 each to a multigenerational cohort of 15 Latinx visual artists each year for an initial commitment of five years. Administered by the U.S. Latinx Art Forum in collaboration with the New York Foundation for the Arts and supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and
the Ford Foundation, this award is the first significant prize of its kind and celebrates the plurality and diversity of Latinx artists and aesthetics. For more information on the Latinx Artist Fellowship, visit mellon.org/latinx-artist-fellowship/.

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**About U.S. Latinx Art Forum**
Since 2015, the U.S. Latinx Art Forum (USLAF) has supported the creation of a more equitable art world by championing artists and arts professionals dedicated to Latinx art through research, studio practice, pedagogy, and writing. USLAF generates and supports initiatives that benefit an intergenerational network of more than 450 members and advances the vitality of Latinx art within academia, art institutions, and collections. Past initiatives have included data collection to track the growth of Latinx art history in academia, which in turn fueled advocacy efforts for greater representation of Latinx art; a closed-door convening with stakeholders to understand the urgent issues facing Latinx artists and cultural workers; and the Mazorca Initiative, a micro-grant program launched in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing threats to justice caused by systemic racism and xenophobia.

**About The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is the nation’s largest supporter of the arts and humanities. Since 1969, the Foundation has been guided by its core belief that the humanities and arts are essential to human understanding. The Foundation believes that the arts and humanities are where we express our complex humanity, and that everyone deserves the beauty, transcendence, and freedom that can be found there. Through our grants, we seek to build just communities enriched by meaning and empowered by critical thinking, where ideas and imagination can thrive.

**About the Ford Foundation**
The Ford Foundation is an independent, nonprofit grant-making organization. For more than 80 years it has worked with courageous people on the frontlines of social change worldwide, guided by its mission to strengthen democratic values, reduce poverty and injustice, promote international cooperation, and advance human achievement. With headquarters in New York, the foundation has offices in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

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