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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR-SITE celebrates the success of The Guardhouse Program’s pilot year announcing artists for the 2024 Program.

San Francisco, CA, February 15, 2024 — Selected through an open call for proposals, three artists will present new work viewable 24 hours a day through the windows of The Guardhouse, a former military guard station at the main entrance to Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture. Installations at The Guardhouse will relate to the cultural and natural history of the site, strengthening FOR-SITE’s commitment to supporting site-specific interventions addressing the most pressing issues of our time.



In March, The Guardhouse Program will kick off with an installation by artist **Yunfei Ren**, a visual artist living in San Francisco, working in installation, sculpture, photography, and sound. Ren's work centers on the immigrant experience, exploring the complexity of identity and belonging in the context of history, citizenship, and queerness. Drawing on his personal experience, Ren's practice investigates the history of racial prejudice and heightens the tensions between past and present. His installation at The Guardhouse will serve as a memorial for the estimated one-million Asian immigrants who entered the United States through Angel Island in search of the "American dream."

The second installment of The Guardhouse Program will feature ceramic and textile works by artist and cultural worker **Lexa Walsh**. With a background in social practice, Walsh employs radical hospitality and makes contextualized sculptural objects, installations, exhibitions, and publications to engage audiences in institutional critique. Through her work, she encourages interaction across hierarchies, creating platforms for multiple voices and proposing new ways of belonging. Walsh's upcoming installation at The Guardhouse will stem from her ongoing interviews with veterans to promote conversations about the complexities of war, acknowledging the military history of Fort Mason.





The Guardhouse Program will close out 2024 with an installation by **Blanka Amezkua** celebrating indigenous, medicinal flowers found at Black Point Historic Gardens, a National Park site at Fort Mason Center. Based in New York, Amezkua is a Mexican-born, Latinx American artist, educator, and project creator with exhibitions at MoMA/P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, The Bronx Museum of

the Arts, Queens Museum, and El Museo del Barrio, among others. Her practice merges formal training as a painter with folk art and pop-cultural forms.

About FOR-SITE

Established in 2003 by Founding Executive Director & Chief Curator Cheryl Haines, **FOR-SITE** is dedicated to the creation, understanding, and presentation of art about place. Highly acclaimed, major FOR-SITE projects include: *Lands End* at the former Cliff House (2021-2022), *Sanctuary* (2017-2018); *Home Land Security* (2016); *@Large: Ai Weiwei on Alcatraz* (2014-2015); *International Orange* (2012), a group show honoring the 75th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge; and land-art installations by Andy Goldsworthy currently on view in the Presidio, including *Spire* (2008) and *Wood Line* (2011).

About The Guardhouse Program

FOR-SITE's **The Guardhouse Program** is designed to support three selected artists annually, each of whom will activate the former military guard station with a temporary art installation responding to the natural and cultural significance of the site and its surrounding area. FOR-SITE launched the program in January 2023, presenting installations by **Kija Lucas, Judith Selby Lang & Richard Lang**, and **Tanja Geis**, curated and managed by Lisa Ellsworth.

The Guardhouse Program is presented by FOR-SITE (for-site.org) in partnership with Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture (fortmason.org). The Guardhouse Program is made possible thanks to generous support from the ARB Fund.

About Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture (FMCAC)

A decommissioned military installation converted into a nonprofit cultural center, FMCAC hosts a lively mix of arts, educational, and cultural programming. Each year FMCAC provides more than \$2 million in support to local arts organizations, enabling groups to produce diverse and innovative artworks at the historic waterfront campus. With a four-decade history as an arts and culture destination, FMCAC is now focused on reinvigorating its programming and amenities to better engage the evolving Bay Area creative community. Central to this new vision is the commissioning and presentation of adventurous and unconventional artworks best realized in nontraditional or historical settings.

IMAGES (top to bottom):

Installation view: *Tanja Geis at The Guardhouse*, September 23, 2023 - January 21, 2024, presented by FOR-SITE as part of The Guardhouse Program; photo credit: Andria Lo

Image of Yunfei Ren; photo credit: Yunfei Ren

Image of Lexa Walsh; photo credit: Dustin Cantrell

Image of Blanka Amezkua; photo credit: Leonidas Alexandropoulos

FOR CALENDAR LISTINGS:

Exhibition dates:

Yunfei Ren at The Guardhouse, March 23 - June 9, 2024

Lexa Walsh at The Guardhouse, June 21 - September 8, 2024

Blanka Amezkua at The Guardhouse, September 20, 2024 - January 19, 2025

Location: The Guardhouse, Fort Mason Center, 2 Marina Blvd., San Francisco, CA 94123

FOR-SITE

art about place

Hours: Open daily, 24 hours a day, viewable through the windows

Admission: Free

Information: for-site.org

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