



445 North Main Avenue
San Antonio, TX 78205
Artpace.org

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 4/7/20

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To schedule phone or email interviews with the artists and curator, please contact Casie Lomeli.

Individual tours of the exhibitions may also be scheduled with necessary social distancing practices in place.

Carlos Castro Arias, Milagros de la Torre, and Daniel Ramos Exhibitions at Artpace San Antonio



SAN ANTONIO, TX (April 7, 2020)— Artpace San Antonio is thrilled to announce the Spring 2020 International Artist-in-Residence exhibitions by **Carlos Castro Arias** (San Diego, California / Tijuana, Mexico / Bogotá, Colombia), **Milagros de la Torre** (New York, New York), and **Daniel Ramos** (Sandy Oaks, Texas). The artists were in-residence at Artpace since January exploring San Antonio and creating new work. The three artists were selected by New York-based curator and writer **Monica Espinel**.

Carlos Castro Arias explores a multitude of tensions surrounding religion in his exhibition, *"I came to set the world on fire, and I wish it were already kindled"* —Luke 12:49. Utilizing fire as a focal point, Arias creates sculptures, laser-cuts, and a soot-stained mural to investigate the contradicting themes of pain and purification, and the religious intensity that makes Texas the state with the second-most churches in the United States. With an oeuvre consisting of unusual materials and a tendency towards the visceral, Arias takes viewers on a journey of contemporary religious contemplation.

Milagros de la Torre examines the historical advancement of facial measuring and its consequences in her exhibition *Systems and Constellations*. Stemming from the artist's own condition of prosopagnosia or 'face blindness'—the impairment in the recognition of faces

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and facial expressions—the artwork in *Systems and Constellations* realizes the evolution of facial recognition technology through 3D printing, historical diagrams, and convex mirrors. This exhibition is the first time de la Torre has returned to utilizing faces in her work since the inception of the series in 2012.

In his exhibition, *The Land of Illustrious Men*, **Daniel Ramos** creates a three-dimensional photo album of a life lived between two separate worlds: his childhood summers in Mexico and his daily life growing up in Pilsen, Chicago, IL. Ramos calls the project a tribute to his family – an expression of “what it feels like when you are invisible and taken for granted.” Utilizing antiques which he and his father drove to San Antonio from his family home in Mexico, Ramos integrates his photography with installation, sculpture, and collage to create an environment drenched in nostalgia. The exhibition is a continuation of his eponymous special edition book and is the first time Ramos has explored mediums outside of photography.

While the Artpace building is closed to the public due to the COVID-19 outbreak, our Resident Artists and staff are working diligently to transition select programming to digitally accessible content. The Spring 2020 Resident Artists and curator will be conducting online interviews, which we will make available to the public through our social media channels, Vimeo page, and Artpace.org. A public reception will be scheduled for a later date.

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About the Curator

Monica Espinel is an independent curator and writer based in New York. She has organized numerous exhibitions including *Black Milk: Theories on Suicide* (Marvelli Gallery, New York, 2004), *Carmen Herrera: Estructuras* (Latincollector, New York, 2008), *Memory Leaks* (Creon, New York, 2010), *Photographic Treasures from the Collection of Alfred Stieglitz* (curatorial assistant, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2011), *Rituals of Chaos* (Bronx Museum of the Arts, 2012), *The Skin I Live In* (Curatorial Lab, SP-Arte, São Paulo, 2013), *Bruno Miguel: Todos à Mesa* (Galeria Emma Thomas, São Paulo, 2015) and *Hybrid Topographies: Encounters from Latin America* (Deutsche Bank, New York, 2018). She was a Mentor for the Associate Artists program of the Liverpool Biennial (2016–18) and is the recipient of numerous awards including ArtTable’s Diversity Grant to be a curatorial fellow at Wave Hill (2009), a Milton & Sally Avery Arts Foundation Curatorial Fellowship at the Bronx Museum of the Arts (2010), and a Roswell L. Gilpatric Award to work in the department of Photographs at The Metropolitan Museum of Art (2011). Espinel holds a BS degree in Psychology from Florida International University and an MA in Art History from Hunter College. Her writing has been featured in artist catalogues and *ArtNexus*, *Arte al Dia*, *Flash Art*, and *Artforum.com*.

About Artpace

Artpace San Antonio is a nonprofit residency program which supports regional, national, and international artists in the creation of new art. As a catalyst for artistic expression, we engage local communities with global art practices and experiences.

To date, Artpace has welcomed over 247 artists through its renowned International Artist-in-Residence Program. Annually, Artpace hosts three residencies. Each feature one Texas-based artist, one national artist, and one international artist, who are selected by a notable guest curator. Each eight-week residency culminates in a two-month exhibition on



Previous (top to bottom):



In consideration of our community and according to the guidelines that the City of San Antonio recommends in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the **Artpace building is currently closed to the public until further notice.**



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site. The mission of this program is to provide artists with unparalleled resources that allow them to experiment with new ideas and take provocative risks. www.artpace.org.