Artpace San Antonio Celebrates Sister City, Gwangju, South Korea and Local Artist, Luis Valderas, in Two New Exhibitions

Exhibition Preview: Thursday, September 8, 2022, from 10:30am–11:30am at Artpace
Public Opening Reception: Thursday, September 8, 2022, from 6–8pm at Artpace
Free parking located at 513 N Flores

[SAN ANTONIO, TX, 8/30/22] – Artpace San Antonio is excited to announce two new exhibitions opening for the fall: Our Step, Our Hope: Sister Cities: Gwangju to San Antonio and The Sacred Portals of Amaxactli (place where the waters split) – 2022 featuring the work of Luis Valderas. Both exhibitions will open to the public with a reception on Thursday, September 8, 2022, from 6–8pm. The opening reception will feature special delicacies prepared by three distinguished Gwangju chefs as a part of the Sister Cities Chef Exchange Program and in celebration of our UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy and with the support of the team at Biga on the Banks Restaurant.

In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the sister city partnership between Gwangju and San Antonio, the Gwangju Museum of Art and Artpace San Antonio will co-host the exhibition Our step, Our hope: Sister Cities: Gwangju to San Antonio. Since Gwangju, South Korea and San Antonio, Texas became Sister Cities in 1982, the two communities have forged a friendship that has lasted 40 years. This
relationship has particularly blossomed in the arts with the construction of a Sosaewon Garden assembled by Gwangju artisans in Denman Estate Park, participation of Gwangju artists in Luminaria Contemporary Art Festival since 2015, and the installation of a light sculpture by San Antonio artist Cakky Brawley at the Kimdaejung Convention Center in Gwangju, which continues to shine.

To embrace the traditional and contemporary diversity of art in Gwangju, this exhibition presents a variety of media and introduces the academic thinking and artistic tradition that stems from the abundant nature of the region. On view in the Hudson Showroom, the works in Sister Cities: Gwangju to San Antonio embody the spirit and history of Gwangju, and the connectedness between our two cities. Featured artists include Haru.K, Seol Park, Namjin Lim, Eunsol Cho, Seonhooi Cheng, Youngsung Hwang, Junggi Lee, Leenam Lee, Jaeghil Woo, and Yonghyun Lim.

The fall Main Space exhibition features local artist and City of San Antonio Department of Arts & Culture 2022 Individual Artist Grant Recipient Luis Valderas. In his exhibition, The Sacred Portal of Amaxactli (place where the waters split) – 2022, Valderas creates an installation inspired by ancient portals opened by Mesoamerican shamans.

The exhibition includes figureheads made of Styrofoam, a shipping material that protects wares from being damaged while being shipped thousands of miles across many borders and discarded upon arrival. This packaging is engineered to keep the objects safe but has also created aesthetic forms, which Valderas has integrated into his visual language. By repurposing the Styrofoam and encapsulating it in
brown shipping paper, the artist has transformed these shipping materials into a new deity of cardinal status that has traversed multiple borders in this reality.

###

**Sponsors: Our Step, Our Hope**
This exhibition has been made possible in partnership with the Gwangju Metropolitan Government and the Gwangju Museum of Art, the City of San Antonio Global Engagement Office, and in part, through the generous support of the Artpace Pacesetters. Artpace would also like to thank the following for their ongoing support of Artpace’s exhibitions and programs: City of San Antonio Department of Arts and Culture, The John L Santikos Charitable Foundation of the San Antonio Area Foundation, The Brown Foundation, Inc., and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

**Sponsors: Luis Valderas**
This exhibition is supported through generous donations from the Linda Pace Foundation, the City of San Antonio Department of Arts and Culture, the National Endowment for the Arts, the John L. Santikos Charitable Foundation of the San Antonio Area Foundation, The Parker Foundation, Inc., Howard and Betty Halff Charitable Fund, and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

**About Artpace**
Artpace San Antonio is a nonprofit residency program which supports Texas, 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 266 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 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

**Image Credits (Top to Bottom):**