

# LA ART SHOW 2015

## HISTORIC | MODERN | CONTEMPORARY

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### SPOTLIGHT ON LATIN AMERICAN ART AT LA ART SHOW

**HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE EXHIBITS BY CONTEMPORARY CUBAN ARTISTS ANGEL RICARDO RICARDO RIOS, ANGEL DELGADO, “LOS FOUR” CHICANO ARTISTS FRANK ROMERO, CARLOS ALMARAZ, AND JUDITHE HERNANDEZ; CURATED EXHIBIT AND LECTURE BY THE MUSEUM OF LATIN AMERICAN ART AND CELEBRITY ART COLLECTOR CHEECH MARIN**

(December 15, 2014—Los Angeles) The LA Art Show will feature an extensive program of Latin American art that includes special exhibits, lectures and and large showcase of galleries from Mexico, Venezuela, Columbia, Cuba and the Dominican Republic. Taking place January 15 - 18 at the Los Angeles Convention Center, South Hall, the LA Art Show Latin American art program will explore themes of cultural exile, the evolution of Latin American art in the United States and abroad and engaging the Latin American art community. The program will feature cutting-edge artists, celebrities, arts professionals, and collectors.

*Nomads Sculptures*, an installation by Cuban artist and Bienal de Sao Paulo participant Angel Ricardo Ricardo Rios will feature a selection of inflatable sculptures up to 26 feet tall. The magnificent scale of the sculptures catches the attention of the urban, and often busy, viewer and to turn his attention to the arts and nature surrounding him. The malleable nature of the works allows them to change the objects' location and play with their presence in different public spaces. Full of life and sexual form, *Nomads Sculptures* become desired objects to the viewers. After working on a variety of sketches, the artist cautiously designs these exotic plants based on seeds brought from Cuba combined with his magical and symbolic imagination. Rios manipulates the nature of the sculptures, cultivating them with plastic material and feeding them with air compressors as independent hearts. In its entirety, the project has six monolithic pieces, columns, fruits and small trees placed in pots, which are based on different versions of a fable told by Ettore Sottsass.

*Outside Also*, performance installation by Cuban artist Angel Delgado that explores the underlying ambiguities in the concept of physical confinement, *Outside Also* raises the question, which side of the boundary is the one containing, limiting, and confining, and which is the side of supposed freedom? Through everyday objects such as doors, locks, and surveillance cameras, Delgado recalls, from a reflective perspective, the multiple manifestations of oppression in contemporary societies. With this work the artist confronts the central theme: how the components of his daily life collide and adapt to habits generated from paranoia, the elusive pursuit of safety, and the task of day to day survival in our society. The ever-watchful camera adds weight to the paradox of freedom and confinement this performance piece creates. Delgado states, “The camera is the mechanism for

monitoring and observation. That is why I turn to a video camera ( CCTV ) which defines, but does not reveal: what locks the doors, or what is located around them.”

A lecture featuring Rios and Delgado will accompany the curated exhibits. Taking place **Thursday, January 15 at 1pm**, *Now and Then: A conversation about the differences in the artistic processes of art from two Cuban artists living in different countries* will explore the artistic processes of the artists. Both Rios and Delgado have produced works of art outside Cuba while still representing their cultural heritage. Delgado’s exile from Cuba compelled him to transform his artistic style while paying homage to Cuban culture. Similarly, Rios creates large-scale works of art while residing in Mexico. This panel will explore culture and the importance of identity.

Pioneering “Los Four” Chicano artists Frank Romero, Carlos Almaraz, and Judithe Hernandez will be featured in a curated group show *Art Going Public – Happily Ever After?*. Presented by the Mural Conservancy of Los Angeles this exhibition will connect the politics of the street to the politics of the canvas. Most people agree that quality public art is desirable. But after the unveiling and party, art in public space can take on a life of its own. Economics, appropriation, and changing neighborhoods are among the factors that push public art away from the intent of the artist. This exhibit will showcase the historical and cultural evolution of some of Los Angeles’ most notable pieces of art displayed in public. Embracing LA’s visual art culture, this exhibit will also include artists Angelina Christina, David Botello, Pablo Cristi, El Mac, Wayne Healy, Victor Henderson, Willie Herrón III, Alex “Defer” Kizu, Francisco Letelier, Gilbert “Magú” Luján, Michael Massenburg, Noni Olabisi, Saber, and Kent Twitchell. Live painting by Robert Vargas together with Graffiti installation by artists Petal and Blossm.

The Mural Conservancy of Los Angeles will also present a lecture on **Saturday, January 17 at 4pm**. *Public Art Land Grab: The Gold Rush Economy of LA’s Mural Renaissance* will feature celebrity art collector Cheech Marin; David Brafman, Associate Curator of Rare Books, The Getty Research Institute; Mitchell O’Farrell, Councilmember and Chair of the Arts, Parks, Health, Aging and Los Angeles River Committee; Ed & Brandy Sweeney, Getty Black Book donors; Danielle Brazell, General Manager, Department of Cultural Affairs; and artist “El Mac.” This lecture will examine the Los Angeles contemporary public art scene standing at the crossroads of economics, culture, politics and history.

The Museum of Latin American Art will showcase select pieces from their permanent collection and featured exhibitions at Booth #639 on the LA Art Show floor. On **Sunday, January 18 at 1pm**, the Museum of Latin American Art will present *“Inclusion and Engagement at the Museum of Latin American Art.”* Assistant Curator of Museum of Latin American Art, Edward Hayes, Jr. will discuss how the museum has expanded its definition of Latin American art to include Chicano and Latino art. This panel will address the topic of inclusion from the perspective of museum education, curatorial programming, and collecting.

The LA Art Show will feature a roster of Latin American galleries including FIFTY24MX Gallery, Antena Estudio, and Maria Isabel Becerra Ambrocio from Mexico; Arte Berri from the Dominican Republic; Galeria Moro from Venezuela; 308 Arte Contemporaneo from Cuba, and Luis Ernesto Ortiz from Columbia.

The LA Art Show takes place from January 15 – 18, 2015 concurrently with the Los Angeles Jewelry, Antique & Design Show at the Los Angeles Convention Center, South Hall 1201 Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90015. For additional information about the Los Angeles Art Show or to purchase online tickets, please visit [www.laartshow.com](http://www.laartshow.com). For media inquiries or to request images, please contact Agnes

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