Internationally-known Guatemalan Performance Artist to visit NIU and Chicago with events at the Northern Illinois University Art Museum

DeKalb, IL – The Northern Illinois University Art Museum welcomes internationally-known Guatemalan artist Regina José Galindo to campus as part of the (RE)PRESENTING GUATEMALA series of exhibitions that explore the history and identity of people in Guatemala in collaboration with the Pick Museum of Anthropology and the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies.

Regina José Galindo will visit campus for a series of talks, events, and programs associated with her 15-year retrospective exhibition, REGINA JOSÉ GALINDO: Bearing Witness, which presents documentation of her performance works. José Galindo is an artist and poet who uses her body as a means for symbolic expression to challenge the inequalities and atrocities that have become commonplace across the globe. At times presenting unsettling topics, Galindo’s work challenges viewers to address issues of social justice, gender, race, politics, and identity.

Galindo’s work is grounded in conceptual art using the body in relationship to time, space and the connection between performer and audience. Curator of the exhibition Lia Newman, Director at the Van Every/Smith Galleries at Davidson College suggested, “Galindo uses her body as a site of visual expression to illuminate the darker side of Guatemala—one of exploitation and aggression.” On loan to the NIU Art Museum from the Van Every/Smith Galleries of Davidson College in North Carolina, REGINA JOSÉ GALINDO: Bearing Witness, includes photograph stills, video, and various objects and artifacts from her performances and runs run Tuesday, January 17 through Friday, February 24. (This exhibition contains adult themes and graphic-violent content, nudity, and imagery not suitable for children or more sensitive viewers. Viewer discretion is advised.)

Before Galindo’s visit, Jeffrey L. Kidder, Associate Professor in Department of Sociology at NIU will present a lecture on the significance of space and place in performance art on Wednesday, January 25 at 5 p.m. in Altgeld Hall 125. Kidder’s essay on the social significance of space appears in the accompanying exhibition catalog for Bearing Witness.

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Associated Events and Educational Programs
More information about the exhibitions, events, and educational programming on and off campus, many of which are free and open to the public, may be found online by visiting www.niu.edu/artmuseum.

Prior to Galindo’s Visit to Northern Illinois University, DeKalb
Wednesday, January 25
5-6 p.m., Altgeld 125
“Sociological Perspectives on the Significance of Space and Place in Performance Art”
Lecture by Jeffrey L. Kidder, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, NIU, whose essay appears in the exhibition catalog.

Galindo’s Visit to Northern Illinois University, DeKalb
Wednesday, February 1
5-6 p.m., Altgeld 315
Artist Talk with Regina José Galindo
6-7 p.m., NIU Art Museum
Light reception with the artist
7-8:30 p.m., Altgeld 315
Guatemalan Poetry Event
Bilingual poetry reading and recital, including pieces written and performed by Regina José Galindo, readings of work by Ana María Rodas, Adolfo Méndez-Vides, Luis Alfredo Arango and Humberto Ak’abal. Hosted by Francisco Solares-Larrave with Frances Jaeger, Professors of Spanish Languages and Literatures, NIU.

Galindo’s Events in Chicago
Thursday, February 2
4 p.m., School of the Art Institute Ballroom, 112 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago
Artist Talk with Regina José Galindo
Galindo has developed a socially and politically motivated practice in which she strives to acknowledge the thirty-six years of civil war her country endured, but also looks forward to a more peaceful and productive future.

Saturday, February 4
7 p.m., DFBRL8R Gallery, 1463 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago
Regina José Galindo Performance
An exclusive performance event with Guatemalan artist Regina José Galindo. Galindo will present a unique live-physical performance in Chicago at the DFBRL8R Gallery dedicated to ephemeral and time based artistic practices.
$10 Requested Donation.

Sunday, February 5
2-5 p.m., DFBRL8R Gallery, 1463 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago
“Social Practice and Performance” Roundtable Discussion featuring artists Regina José Galindo, Marc Joseph Jeffery, Joseph Ravens, Roberto Sifuentes and Lisa Vinebaum addressing socially driven projects, forms of spectatorship and public engagement.

For questions about the exhibition or programs please phone 815-753-1936 or email shenn1@niu.edu.

Additional Images


High-resolution images will be sent as a separate attachment upon request.

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Also on view as part of the (RE)PRESENTING GUATEMALA exhibition suite at the NIU Art Museum: VISIONES E HISTORIAS: Maya Paintings from Guatemala features the work of Paula Nicho Cúmez and Pedro Rafaeł González Chavajay and HUIPILES: Maya Identity and Identifier explores the rich and unique weaving and embroidery practices of the Guatemalan Maya. On view at the The James B. and Rosalyn L. Pick Museum of Anthropology January 23 – May 12, 2017 PUSH FACTORS: Perspectives on Guatemalan Migration that brings the causes and journey of migration to life through contemporary photography, documentary video, decorative textiles and traditional clothing.

Support for (RE)PRESENTING GUATEMALA provided by The Northern Illinois University Center for Latino and Latin American Studies; Latino Resource Center; Department of Sociology; Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures; Gender and Sexuality Resource Center; the James B. and Rosalyn L. Pick Museum of Anthropology; the Olson Gallery, the Printmaking Division, Time Arts Division, the Visual Resource Center, and the Visiting Artists and Scholars Fund of the School of Art and Design; the Office of the President and Office of the Provost; Matthew Krystal, Professor and Chair of Anthropology at North Central College, Naperville; Marcie and David McMahon; an anonymous and kind-hearted Señora; the PLB Honor Fund; Rita Moran; DFBRL8R Gallery, Chicago; and The Fiber and Material Studies Department and the Performance Art Department at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Lenders Artwork and objects for the exhibitions has come from the university collections at NIU; the artists; private individuals; The Helen Moran Collection; Arte Maya Tz'uhutil, San Francisco, California; The Spurlock Museum of World Cultures at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; and Jason DeLeon’s Undocumented Migration Project at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

The exhibits and programs of the NIU Art Museum are sponsored in part by the Illinois Arts Council Agency; the Friends of the NIU Art Museum; and the Dean’s Circle of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, NIU Foundation.

REGINA JOSÉ GALINDO: Bearing Witness is organized by the Van Every/Smith Galleries, Davidson College, Davidson, North Carolina; with the support of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Bacca Foundation Visiting Lecture and Artist Fund, the North Carolina Arts Council, Herb Jackson and Laura Grosch Gallery Endowment, Davidson College Friends of the Arts, Davidson College’s Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS), Latin American Studies at Davidson College, and Multicultural Affairs. The exhibition is curated by Lia Newman, Director/Curator at the Van Every/Smith Galleries.

About the NIU Art Museum The NIU Art Museum contributes to the University’s educational curriculum and provides opportunities for art education and cultural enrichment throughout the community. The Museum serves to educate, preserve, exhibit, and enlighten by balancing the challenges of contemporary art with the riches of traditional media for a comprehensive examination of visual culture.

Gallery Hours Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday 12 noon – 4 p.m.; or by appointment for group tours. Exhibitions are open to the public and admission is FREE, but donations are always appreciated.

The NIU Art Museum is located on the first floor, west end of Altgeld Hall, located on the corner of College Avenue and Castle Drives on the main campus of Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL. Parking is available in the Carroll Avenue Visitor's Pay Lot; handicapped and metered spots in front of Altgeld Hall; and during public receptions and programs in Lot 3 northeast of Gilbert Drive and College Avenue. Campus parking is free on weekends and after 5 p.m. weekdays.