

For Immediate Release
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POP TO THE RESCUE
Work by Mitsy Ávila Ovalles, Carolyn Castaño, Las Hermanas
Iglesias, and Ana Serrano
June 7- August 24, 2013

May 10, 2013 San Jose, CA – MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana presents *Pop to the Rescue* a group exhibition from June 7 – August 24, 2013. This exhibition summons Latina popular culture strategies and aesthetics to deal with chaotic environments.

In the summer of 2013, MACLA will present the work of Mitsy Ávila Ovalles, Carolyn Castaño, Las Hermanas Iglesias, and Ana Serrano. When in trouble this group of artists summons their Latina roots by employing popular culture strategies and aesthetics to derive a sense of chaotic environments. The strategy allows them to metaphorically level the field and address charged issues such as Latin American drug wars, power relationships, and urban takeovers.

San Jose-based Mitsy Ávila Ovalles paints intimate and highly charged autobiographical moments that she then embellishes by including portraits of iconic Latino celebrities. Los Angeles-based and Colombian heritage Carolyn Castaño presents her lurid paintings related to the Latin American drug wars beautified with patterns and motifs fraught with cultural symbolism in an effort to somehow lighten up the warfare madness. Castaño will also create a new site specific installation with a traditional family room where the TV is constantly playing a video created by the artist that mimics the Latino news channel. Her video *El Reporte Femenil/The Female Report* presents a TV newscaster Silvana Godoy, played by Castaño herself that reports on past and current status of women in Latin America by revisiting the accomplishments and downfalls of women south of the border. Brooklyn-based Las Hermanas Iglesias (of Dominican father and Norwegian mother) feature piñata proxies through which they play out their sibling rivalry by beating up each other's likeness. Los Angeles-based Ana Serrano recreates small scale paper models of buildings and facilities that show the makings and un-makings of a city where the uses and facades are constantly changing, being re-appropriated and re-contextualized.

In addition to the exhibition, Carolyn Castaño is doing a Visual Artists Network Exhibition Residency, which is a program of the National Performance Network working with MACLA's Peapod Adobe Youth Voices Academy youth. The participants will work closely with Castaño to create their own newscast project where they will revisit their accomplishments and the obstacles they daily overcome.

Biographies

Mitsy Ávila Ovalles was born in Santa Clara in 1978. She grew up, lives, and works in San José, where she received her BFA in painting from San Jose State University in 2004. Her work has been exhibited widely for the past decade in spaces such as Fifty24SF in San Francisco, Tropic de Nopal in Los Angeles, and Lart23tre Galeria in Mexico City. Ovalles uses her artistic abilities to masquerade issues of culture into crafty and kitschy objects. She combines paint, sculpture, wood burning, signage, fiber, and installation to create artifacts and environments of Mexican, Chicano and American pop culture.

Carolyn Castaño is a Los Angeles-based artist whose recent body of work explores the role of women in the male-dominated culture of narco-trafficking. She is a California Community Foundation Getty Fellow and recipient of the prestigious C.O.L.A Individual Artist Fellowship. Carolyn's work was featured in LACMA's critically acclaimed exhibition, Phantom Sightings: Art After the Chicano Movement, which traveled to the Museo Del Barrio, New York City and the Museo de Arte Contemporaneo Rufino Tamayo in Mexico City, amongst other venues. She has been featured in several group shows, LA Now: Emerging Artists, Galerie Dominique Fiat, Paris, Liquid Los Angeles: Contemporary Watercolor Painting in Los Angeles at the Pasadena Museum of California Art, Semi-Precious, The Public Art Fund, New York and International Paper, an exhibition of drawings at the Hammer Museum. Carolyn has had solo exhibitions at Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, Kontainer Gallery, Los Angeles and Lombard- Freid Fine Art, New York. She is a graduate of the San Francisco Art Institute and UCLA- School of Art and Architecture.

Las Hermanas Iglesias are Lisa and Janelle Iglesias, a collaborative team of sisters who were born and raised in Queens, New York. As second-generation Norwegian-Dominicans, their work often comments on bridging disparate materials and practices. Lisa Iglesias received an MFA from the University of Florida and Janelle received an MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University. Las Hermanas have shown collaboratively both in the United States and abroad, including the Queens Museum of Art, the Jersey City Museum, and Binghamton University. They have each received fellowships from the Urban Arts Initiative/ New York City and the New York Foundation for the Arts, among others, and recently they were the recipients of a Lower Manhattan Cultural Council collaborative residency at the Cité International des Arts in Paris.

Ana Serrano is a first generation Mexican American born in Los Angeles, California in 1983. Inspired by both of the cultural contexts in her life, she creates work utilizing a variety of mediums including drawing, collage, sculpture, and motion. Her work bears reference to those in low socioeconomic positions, particular interest in the customs and beliefs, as well as the architecture, fashion, and informal economies present within this segment of society. A current

theme explored in her work is the socio-cultural aspects of drug trafficking, and the branding and acceptance of the drug lord lifestyle. She is a graduate of Art Center College of Design and currently resides in Los Angeles, California.

Support to this project:

MACLA is a VAN Partner of the Visual Artists Network (VAN). This project is made possible in part through support from the Visual Artists Network Exhibition Residency, which is a program for the National Performance Network. Major contributors are Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the Joan Mitchell Foundation, the Ford Foundation and the Pollock Krasner Foundation. For more information: www.npnweb.org

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About MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana

MACLA is an inclusive contemporary arts space grounded in the Chicano/Latino experience that incubates new visual, literary and performance art in order to engage people in civic dialogue and community transformation. MACLA is located at 510 South First Street, San Jose, CA 95113. For more information about MACLA call (408) 998-ARTE or see www.maclaarte.org

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CALENDAR LISTING – MUSEUMS

CONTACT: Monica Ramirez-Montagut, Associate Director & Senior Curator
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WHO: MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana presents *Pop to the Rescue*, contemporary work by Latinas engaging popular culture.

WHAT: *Pop to the Rescue*, a group exhibition of contemporary art by Latinas that explore their own popular culture strategies to deal with chaotic environments and fraught situations. Artists include: Mitsy Ávila Ovalles, Carolyn Castaño, Las Hermanas Iglesias, and Ana Serrano.

WHEN: **Exhibition dates:** June 7 – August 24, 2013

Opening reception: Friday, June 7 at 7:00pm

Artist talk: Friday, June 7 at 6:30pm

Join us for the opening and an informal conversation with Carolyn Castaño

The opening of *Pop to the Rescue* is held in conjunction with the SubZero arts and culture festival in San Jose's SoFA District from 6pm until midnight.

WHERE: MACLA, 510 South First Street, San Jose, CA 95113.

COST: Free

INFO: Please call (408) 998-2783 x 28 for more information and to schedule a group tour.

Gallery hours:

Wednesday & Thursday, 12 noon – 7pm

Friday & Saturday, 12 noon – 5pm & by special appointment

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Image Credits:

1. Carolyn Castaño. *The Female Report /El Reporte Femenil*, 2011
2. Carolyn Castaño. *Anchor-woman, Lover, Confidante (Virginia Vallejo)*, 2009
PhotoCredit- Amy L. Tierney
3. Ana Serrano. *Neveria*, 2012
4. Las Hermanas Iglesias. *Self Portraits*, 2010

