

HAMMER

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: September 29, 2023
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HAMMER MUSEUM'S SIGNATURE BIENNIAL *MADE IN L.A.* RETURNS OCTOBER 1

***Made in L.A. 2023: Acts of Living* Highlights Work by 39 Artists and Collectives**



Joey Terrill, *Painted by Her Brother*, 1983. Acrylic on canvas. Frame 25¼ × 31¼ in. (64.1 × 79.4 cm).
Courtesy of the artist and Ortuzar Projects, New York. Photo: Timothy Doyon

(Los Angeles, CA) — On October 1 the Hammer Museum will open the sixth edition of its acclaimed biennial *Made in L.A.*, one of the most influential presentations of contemporary art in the United States. Highlighting artists working throughout the greater Los Angeles area, *Made in L.A. 2023: Acts of Living* will comprise works by 39 intergenerational artists and groups, whose practices embrace craft, materiality, and collectivity. Organized by independent curator Diana Nawi and Hammer curator Pablo José Ramírez with Luce Curatorial Fellow Ashton Cooper, the exhibition is on view through December 31, 2023, and will be accompanied by an array of public programs, including performances, artist talks, screenings, and more. The exhibition is sponsored by Bank of America.

Hammer Museum director Ann Philbin said, “As I think about *Acts of Living* and look back on past Hammer biennials, I am amazed by the tremendous depth and breadth of our city’s artistic communities. Like each new presentation in the series, this *Made in L.A.* will be a critical gauge of the

extraordinary talent in our city at this moment, and of the urgent ideas and concerns of today's artists. I am grateful to Diana Nawi and Pablo José Ramírez for bringing together this exciting group of artists and creating this compelling snapshot of contemporary art and communities in Los Angeles."

The exhibition, which will encompass sculpture, assemblage, painting, drawing, ceramics, performance, and installation, will consider art as an expanded field of culture entangled with everyday life. It takes its title from a statement by the late Noah Purifoy (1917–2004) inscribed on a plaque at the Watts Towers: "One does not have to be a visual artist to utilize creative potential. Creativity can be an act of living, a way of life, and a formula for doing the right thing."

Pablo José Ramírez said, "Over the course of nearly two hundred studio visits, we traveled from the San Fernando Valley to Long Beach to the outer edges of Palm Springs, journeys that brought focus to artistic mediums, intergenerational connections, diasporic histories, and vernacular aesthetics. Being in dialogue with artists in their studios and homes, and all over the city, gave us a richer appreciation for the way that artists address and transform experiences, ideas, and material surroundings drawn from everyday life."

Diana Nawi said, "Pablo and I were struck by not only the diversity of practices we encountered but also, more profoundly, by the different stakes people expressed for art making. Art has a critical role to play in people's lives, to their wellbeing and that of their communities; it attests to our existence and allows us a better understanding of one another."

EXHIBITION OVERVIEW: THEMATIC GROUPINGS

The exhibition will highlight themes of urban visual culture, domestic intimacy, materials and processes rooted in tradition, and expansive archival and collective practices. It is organized into sections anchored in the work of artists with long-standing practices. These groupings propose an expansive network of imagined artistic inheritances and legacies and shared visual languages across conceptual approaches.

- Painters **Michael Alvarez, Victor Estrada, Tidawhitney Lek, Devin Reynolds,** and **Joey Terrill** use figuration and landscape to reflect on place, as much a physical site as a psychological terrain. A kind of everyday surrealism is depicted through diverse modes of handling paint and collaged gestures within a single canvas. Other painters and sculptors—**Jessie Homer French, Paige Jiyoung Moon,** and **Christopher Suarez**—use a heavily stylized manner of exaggerated flatness and heightened attention to detail to depict scenes from life.
- The human figure emerges as both subject and form in works by **Marcel Alcalá, Jibz Cameron, Pippa Garner, Young Joon Kwak,** and **Page Person.** For each of these artists, performance—and by extension, their own bodies—are central to their practices, even as they make autonomous objects. Through drawings, paintings, sculpture, and videos, each artist approaches the conditions of contemporary life with absurdity, humor, and resilience.
- The works of **Sula Bermúdez-Silverman, Emmanuel Louisnord Desir, Dan Herschlein, Akinsanya Kambon,** and **Teresa Tolliver** take the body as a recurrent motif for sculpture and relief. In the assemblage and installations of **Kang Seung Lee, Maria Maea, Miller Robinson,**

and **Chiffon Thomas**, the body becomes disassembled and reconstituted, a figure implied through form and a lost presence invoked in rituals of making and reception.

- Abstract landscape and figurative works by **Teresa Baker, Nancy Evans, Kyle Kilty, and Erica Mahinay** that, through gesture, pattern, symbols, and mapping, recognize the possibility of elsewheres embedded in our realities. The weaver **Melissa Cody** and the artist and furniture maker **Ryan Preciado** bring abstraction into dialogue with craft, design, and inherited forms.
- In the works of **Jackie Amézquita, Luis Bermudez, Ishi Glinsky, Esteban Ramón Pérez, and Roksana Pirouzmand**, a vast range of timeless cultural iconographies is translated through stitching, embossing, carving, etching, and sculpting. Their works highlight meaning embedded in materials and in ways of making, articulating craft and visual culture as expansive forms of knowledge.

COLLECTIVE AND COMMUNITY-BASED ARTWORKS

Artists who work both in and out of the studio have a diverse range of projects situated throughout the museum. These projects highlight the political significance of cultural preservation, and the ways in which we might give our lives meaning through art as individuals and collectively.

- Through online media, programs, and parties, **Vincent Enrique Hernandez** has created a tour of the San Fernando Valley that is a mode of preservation and recognition for this lesser appreciated part of Los Angeles. Visitors to the exhibition will be able to enter a raffle to win a chance to take one of the weekly tours offered throughout the exhibition, seeing the Valley through his unique lens.
- The community sourced, Instagram-based archival projects **@veteranas_and_rucas** and **@map_pointz** created by **Guadalupe Rosales** have resulted in a sanctuary-like installation with sculptures that draws inspiration from a breadth of touchpoints including club culture, Aztec iconography, and lowriding and custom car culture.
- **AMBOS: Art Made Between Opposite Sides**, a collective that works at the US-Mexico border, creates collaborative projects that respond to urgencies and ongoing needs, using art as a way of building community and creating alternative ways of being and of being together. The installation *Con nuestras manos construimos deidades / With our hands we build deities* (2023) is formed from sets of clay hands, woven arms, and embroidered talismans produced through collaborations and community workshops with individuals awaiting US asylum at Tijuana shelters and people whose lives have been affected by histories of migration in San Diego and Los Angeles.
- *N.O.M.A.D.* (2015–23), the tiny mobile house and studio created by **Dominique Moody**, can be employed both by an individual and used to create space for community. During the biennial, *N.O.M.A.D.* will be installed outside the museum on Lindbrook Drive, and visitors will be able to enter and experience the environment on select Sundays when the artist is present.

- *break room* (2023), an installation by **Los Angeles Contemporary Archive (LACA)**, serves as a public rest area within the museum that is remixed and reshuffled with the organization's archival collections. The collections show how a complicated artistic life can lead to dreaming up possibilities of living differently and refusing oppressive conditions. In *break room*, LACA will host public programs like coffee breaks, archive workshops, and a support group for artists.
- **Mas Exitos** collects and produces music, making it available as a living, shared experience. For *Made in L.A.*, Mas Exitos presents an installation comprised of sound, sculpture, and wall works that will be activated through performances, DJ sets, panels, and a party. A disco ball and *sonidero* cart will be activated by a playlist curated by Mas Exitos founder Gary Garay, ranging from ambient music to Chicano soul and low-beat electro-cumbia.
- Installed in the museum's lobby, a large-scale painting and a mural by **Devin Reynolds**, titled *Paradise Lost*, draws on numerous visual languages, indebted to the history of Western painting, architecture, muralism, graphic design, and sign painting, to capture the chaotic, beautiful, and dynamic cacophony of Los Angeles itself.

MOHN AWARDS

Funded through the generosity of Los Angeles philanthropists and art collectors **Jarl and Pamela Mohn**, The Mohn Award (\$100,000) and the Career Achievement Award (\$25,000) will be selected by a professional jury, and the Public Recognition Award (\$25,000) will be determined through a public vote. Visitors to the exhibition may cast their vote at Mohn Award kiosks located throughout the museum. All the artists in the exhibition are eligible to receive the awards. In 2020 Kandis Williams received the Mohn Award; Monica Majoli received the Career Achievement Award, and MR. WASH received the Public Recognition Award. In 2018 artist Lauren Halsey received the Mohn Award; Daniel Joseph Martinez received the Career Achievement Award, and EJ Hill received the Public Recognition Award. Dancer Adam Linder received the Mohn Award in 2016, Alice Könitz received it in 2014, and Meleko Mokgosi received it in 2012.

ARTIST DOCUMENTARY SHORTS & MUSEUM DIGITAL GUIDE

The Hammer has created a series of captivating videos that take viewers behind the scenes to ten artists' homes and studios as they prepare for *Made in L.A.* The films, created by Hammer Senior Media Producer Gabriel Noguez, offer illuminating insights into the lives and practices of **AMBOS: Art Made Between Opposite Sides, Jackie Amézquita, Melissa Cody, Vincent Enrique Hernandez, Akinsanya Kambon, Young Joon Kwak, Los Angeles Contemporary Archive (LACA), Dominique Moody, Roksana Priouzman, and Joey Terrill.**

The videos are available as part of [Bloomberg Connects](#), the museum's free digital guide, and are also available on Hammer Channel and the Hammer's YouTube channel. The Bloomberg digital guide also features an introduction to *Made in L.A. 2023* by curators Diana Nawi and Pablo José Ramírez, as well as more exclusive content related to artworks in the exhibition.

MADE IN L.A. PUBLIC PROGRAMS

In conjunction with *Made in L.A. 2023: Acts of Living*, the museum will present public programs throughout the fall with biennial artists, including:

Performances

- **Weirdo Night with Dynasty Handbag**
Saturday, October 14, 7:30PM
Weirdo Night is a popular long-running freak-forward variety show hosted and curated by **Dynasty Handbag** (alter ego of *Made in L.A.* artist **Jibz Cameron**). For the Hammer iteration, Weirdo Night will feature performances by *Made in L.A.* artists **Marcel Alcalá**, **Pippa Garner** (in absentia), **Page Person**, and **Xina Xurner (Young Joon Kwak and Marvin Astorga)** with **travesdee**, plus a dance performance by **HAAGS** (Jibz Cameron + **Emilia Richeson of Ponysweat**).
- **How I Became A Person**
Thursday, November 16, 7:30PM
In celebration of Trans Awareness Week, *Made in L.A.* artist **Page Person** will present a sprawling, multi-sensory performance confronting anti-drag and anti-trans hysteria with humor, storytelling, and audience participation.
- **Technotitlan**
Thursday, November 9, 8PM
In this sonic performance by **Mas Exitos**, artist Gary “Ganas” Garay creates an electromagnetic mural from his personal archive of techno and house records with Latin-based samples. The performance takes place on the museum’s Annenberg Terrace, with *Made in L.A.* galleries open late. Cash bar.

Conversations

- **Eastside Sound: Lowrider & Soul**
Tuesday, October 10, 7:30PM
Co-presented with the UCLA César E. Chávez Department of Chicana/o and Central American Studies **Ruben Molina**, author of *Chicano Soul: Recordings and History of American Culture* and *The Old Barrio Guide to Low Rider Music*, joins *Made in L.A.* artist **Gary “Ganas” Garay** for a conversation punctuated with musical interludes. Their discussion- will focus on the archives of Los Angeles lowrider and soul music through a Chicano and Mexicano perspective.
- **An Expanded Legacy of Assemblage**
Thursday, October 12, 7:30PM
Expanding material vocabularies and cultural touchstones, artists **Sula Bermúdez-Silverman**, **Maria Maea**, and **Chiffon Thomas** will discuss their practices in relation to the legacy of

assemblage. Each artist will share insights on collecting, rearranging, and scavenging both objects and ideas. Moderated by *Made in L.A.* curator **Diana Nawi**, with audience Q&A to follow.

- **The Feminine Absurd: The Queer Body in Made in L.A. 2023**

Tuesday, October 24, 7:30PM

As artists who work between performance and object-making, **Marcel Alcalá**, **Jibz Cameron**, and **Young Joon Kwak** will speak to their work blurring the distinctions between these mediums. Working in queer communities, these artists explore what we could call "femininity" or "femaleness" in their lives and practices, but treat the subject with a healthy dose of absurdism, satire, and drag. Moderated by *Made in L.A.* Luce Curatorial Fellow, **Ashton Cooper**, with audience Q&A to follow.

- **An Indigenous Present: Indigeneity in Made in L.A. 2023**

Wednesday, November 15, 7:30PM

Co-presented with the UCLA American Indian Studies Center

Celebrating the launch of the new book *An Indigenous Present*, conceived by artist **Jeffrey Gibson**, this panel will take a closer look at *Made in L.A. 2023: Acts of Living* from the perspective of Indigenous intersectionality. *Made in L.A.* artists **Teresa Baker**, **Melissa Cody**, **Ishi Glinsky**, and **Esteban Ramón Pérez** will join Gibson and curator **Pablo José Ramírez** in **this conversation on** indigeneity through a larger understanding of native land, diasporic and queer histories, *mestizaje*, and ideas of ancestry.

Artist Talks

- **Akinsanya Kambon**

Tuesday, October 17, 7:30PM

Made in L.A. artist **Akinsanya Kambon** will speak with **Dr. Bridget Cooks**, professor of Art history and African American Studies at the University of California, Irvine, about his practice, which spans drawing, painting, bronze work, and ceramic sculpting while centering rich traditions in African art and storytelling.

- **Tanya Aguiñiga & AMBOS: Art Made Between Opposite Sides**

Wednesday, November 8, 7:30PM

The artist collective **AMBOS: Art Made Between Opposite Sides** documents and engages with communities at the US/Mexico border.

- **Joey Terrill**

Tuesday, November 28, 7:30PM

Co-presented with the UCLA César E. Chávez Department of Chicana/o and Central American Studies.

Artist and former Director of Global Advocacy & Partnerships for the AIDS Healthcare Foundation **Joey Terrill** will speak about his life's work as an artist and activist focusing on issues facing queer Chicano communities in Los Angeles and beyond.

Screenings

- **Cumbia Sin Reglas**

Thursday, October 26, 5:30PM

Filmmakers **Joyce Garcia** and **Alvaro Parra** will screen their films *Yo No Soy Guapo* and *Kumbia Net: Un Estilo Bien Diferente*. The screenings will be followed by a conversation with the filmmakers and artists **Eamon Ore-Giron** and **Gary "Ganas" Garay**, moderated by USC professor and Vice Provost for the Arts **Josh Kun** about the evolution of cumbia music in Mexico, the U.S., and online. The discussion will be followed by an afterparty with DJs **Lengua**, **Ganas**, **Turbo Sonidero**, and **MC Mextape**.

Yo No Soy Guapo, 2018, dir. Joyce Garcia, color, 81 min.

Kumbia Net: Un Estilo Bien Diferente, 2022, dir: Alvaro Parra, color, 25 min.

EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

Available now at the [Hammer Store](#), the exhibition catalogue features essays by curators Pablo José Ramírez and Diana Nawi and Luce Curatorial Fellow Ashton Cooper, plus texts on each artist's practice by Ana Briz, Mira Dayal, Anthony Graham, Essence Harden, Grant Klarich Johnson, Cat Kron, Frances Lazare, Christina Catherine Martinez, Lucia Olubunmi R. Momoh, Ade J. Omotosho, Jared Quinton, Nicole Smythe-Johnson, Susan Thompson, and Joseph Daniel Valencia. Also included is a photo essay by participating artist Vincent Enrique Hernandez, a playlist by Gary Garay of Mas Exitos, and an excerpt from Guadalupe Rosales' forthcoming publication, *East of the River*. The catalogue is designed by Los Angeles-based IN-FO.CO and distributed worldwide by DelMonico Books*D.A.P.

MADE IN L.A. ARTIST-DESIGNED PRODUCTS AT THE HAMMER STORE

The Hammer Store will continue its series of retail pop-ups with special merchandise created for the exhibition by *Made in L.A.* artists and collaborators. Among the limited-edition objects are apparel items by **Guadalupe Rosales** (in collaboration with **Paiza Boys**), **Melissa Cody**, **Kyle Kilty**, and **Jibz Cameron**; hand-made and painted tote bags by **Page Person**; and ceramics by **AMBOS**. Additional *Made in L.A.* merchandise includes limited-edition items featuring artworks by **Joey Terrill**, **Pippa Garner**, and **Jessie Homer French**.

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CREDIT

Made in L.A. 2023: Acts of Living is organized by independent curator Diana Nawi and Hammer curator Pablo José Ramírez, with Ashton Cooper, Luce Curatorial Fellow.

Made in L.A. 2023: Acts of Living is presented by Bank of America.



The exhibition is made possible by the Mohn Family Foundation and members of the Hammer Circle. Major support is provided by Mark Sandelson, The Fran and Ray Stark Foundation, and The Offield Family Foundation. Generous support is provided by Bill Hair, Dori Peterman Mostov and Charles Mostov, Orange Barrel Media, The Peyton Family Foundation, and The Rhonda S. Zinner Foundation and Jonathan Segal. Additional support is provided by Kristen Boggs Jaeger and Jeff Jaeger, Sherry and Joel McQuin, Ruth and Todd Black, Lee Ramer, Pasadena Art Alliance, and Shahin Tabassi. *Made in L.A.*



2023: Acts of Living is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Media sponsorship is provided by KCRW 89.9.

ABOUT MADE IN L.A.

The Hammer's biennial exhibition series *Made in L.A.* focuses exclusively on artists from Los Angeles with a primary focus on emerging artists. The Los Angeles biennial debuts new installations, videos, films, sculptures, performances, and paintings commissioned specifically for the exhibition and offers insight into the current trends and practices coming out of Los Angeles, one of the most active and energetic art communities in the world. *Made in L.A.* began in 2012 with a second iteration in 2014 and a third in 2016, and followed the tradition of the Hammer Invitational exhibitions, which occurred every two years and included *Snapshot* (2001), *International Paper* (2003), *Thing* (2005), *Eden's Edge* (2007), *Nine Lives* (2009), and *All of this and nothing* (2011).

Made in L.A. 2012 was organized by a team of curators from the Hammer Museum and LAXART: Hammer senior curator Anne Ellegood, Hammer curator Ali Subotnick, LAXART director and chief curator Lauri Firstenberg, LAXART associate director and senior curator Cesar Garcia, and LAXART curator-at-large Malik Gaines.

Made in L.A. 2014 was co-curated by Hammer chief curator Connie Butler and Los Angeles-based independent curator Michael Ned Holte.

Made in L.A. 2016: a, the, though, only was cocurated by Hammer curator Aram Moshayedi and Hamza Walker, former director of education and associate curator at the Renaissance Society in Chicago and currently director of LAXART in Los Angeles.

Made in L.A. 2018 was organized by Anne Ellegood, senior curator, and Erin Christovale, assistant curator, with MacKenzie Stevens, curatorial associate. Performances are coordinated by Vanessa Arizmendi, curatorial assistant.

Made in L.A. 2020 was organized by independent curators Myriam Ben Salah and Lauren Mackler, with the Hammer's Ikechukwu Onyewuenyi, assistant curator of performance. *Made in L.A. 2020* was organized by the Hammer Museum in partnership with The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.

ABOUT THE HAMMER MUSEUM

The Hammer Museum is part of the School of the Arts and Architecture at UCLA, and offers exhibitions and collections that span classic to contemporary art. It holds more than 50,000 works in its collection, including one of the finest collections of works on paper in the nation, the Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts. Through a wide-ranging, international exhibition program and the Made in L.A. biennial, the Hammer highlights contemporary art since the 1960s, especially the work of emerging and under - recognized artists. The exhibitions, permanent collections, and nearly 300 public programs annually— including film screenings, lectures, symposia, readings, music performances, and workshops for families—are all free to the public.

HAMMER MUSEUM INFORMATION

Admission to all exhibitions and programs at the Hammer Museum is free. Hours: Tuesday–Sunday 11 a.m.–6 p.m. Closed Mondays and national holidays. Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Boulevard at Westwood, Los Angeles. Onsite parking is \$8 for the first 3 hours (maximum \$22), or \$8 flat rate after 6 p.m. Valet parking is available at the Lindbrook Drive entrance for \$10. Visit hammer.ucla.edu for details or call 310-443-7000