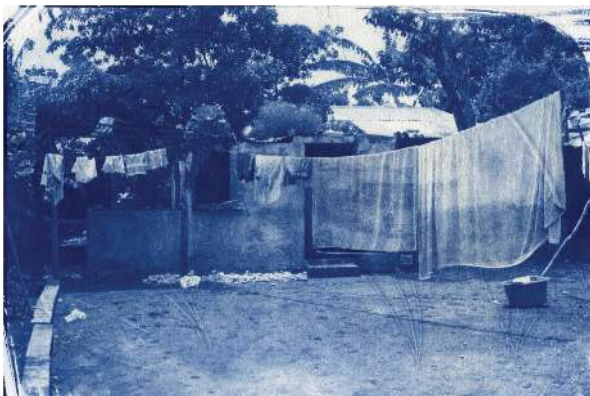


## *the air we share*

# The 2024-2025 CCF Fellowship for Visual Artists Exhibition

May 31 – September 7, 2025



Images:

Mercedes Dorame, *Steatite Remains-‘Eesey Moyookmoro*, 2022. Archival inkjet print, 43.5 x 36 in. Image courtesy of the artist.

Felix Quintana, *Ropa tendida en La Labor, Ahuachapan*, 2025. Cyanotype print, photography, 58" x 82" (four 29" x 41" panels). Image courtesy of the artist.

LOS ANGELES- *the air we share The 2024-2025 CCF Fellowship for Visual Artists Exhibition* includes a selection of artworks including performance, photography, painting, and installation by the 2024–25 cohort of artists from the California Community Foundation’s Fellowship for Visual Artists, funded generously by the J. Paul Getty Trust. The fellowship, which offers financial and professional support to mid-career artists in Los Angeles County, seeks to propel the careers of artists who have dedicated themselves to nourishing the cultural vitality of the County by providing the means to further their careers into the next stage. The FVA exhibit, curated by Joseph Daniel Valencia, offers the fellows the opportunity to showcase their work in a premier museum in a way that honors and uplifts their respective artistic practices. This year’s cohort was selected by a committee of seven local arts professionals and were carefully vetted for the quality of their work and commitment to uplifting marginalized voices.

“This exhibition showcases the vibrancy of each artist selected for the 2024-25 FVA,” said guest curator Joseph Daniel Valencia. “Rather than imposing a theme on the artists, I met with each of them to understand how this fellowship is supporting their work at this stage in their careers. Some have recently completed major projects, while others are in transition. Together, we selected artworks that reflect their professional paths and current interests—from ancestral knowledge and the politics of representation to placemaking within a shifting urban landscape—each deeply relevant to our contemporary moment.”

Marking its 35th anniversary in 2024, this year’s cohort of eleven fellows represents an assortment of talented artists including Mercedes Dorame (photography); Gabriela Ruiz (installation, video, photography); Raymundo Tonatiuh Reynoso (painting, printmaking, photography); Salvador de la Torre (performance, sculpture); Bumdog Torres (photography); Genevieve Erin O’Brien (performance); Maria Maea (sculpture, installation); Ray Anthony Barrett (painting); Felix Quintana (photography, collage); Maryrose Mendoza (drawing, painting, sculpture); and Leslie Foster (experimental video).

# Craft Contemporary

5814 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90036

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 26, 2025

CONTACT  
Sherry Chen  
sherry@craftcontemporary.org



Beginning in June 2025, Craft Contemporary will present a series of exhibitions interpreting the varied interactions between craft and the natural elements: air, water, earth, and fire. *the air we share The 2024-2025 CCF Fellowship for Visual Artists Exhibition* is one of the first of these exhibitions and will explore the ethereal qualities of air and its relations to memory. *the air we share The 2024-2025 CCF Fellowship for Visual Artists Exhibition* and the exhibitions to follow will highlight sustainability, accessibility, and connect visitors to the universal rhythms of the Earth. Significantly, these exhibitions will tell a new story of Craft in a contemporary world as we work together to heal global wounds through creativity and making.

This exhibition is generously supported by the California Community Foundation and the J. Paul Getty Trust.



## Images:

Gabriela Ruiz, *Spiral: 4:30 AM*, 2024. Acrylic, polyurethane, colored pencil, acrylic marker, silver leaf on wood panel, 56.75 x 59.5 x 3.75 in. Image courtesy of the artist.

Raymundo Tonatiuh Reynoso, *TIRE'D*, 2025. Acrylic, screen print, spray paint, toner, resin print, collage, tape, signage on wood panels (11 elements), 68 x 160 in. Image courtesy of the artist.

## SUMMER SOLSTICE OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, June 21st, 2025

12-5 PM

Celebrate the beginning of summer and the opening of our Summer/Fall exhibitions: *Ether: Aromatic Mythologies, the air we share*, *IAO Olfactory Storylab Maker-in-Residence*, and *Light Gauge*. During these uncertain times, we want to open our doors to everyone working in and supporting the arts in Los Angeles. This event is free and open to the public, and all are welcome. Enjoy the new exhibitions, drop-in crafts, summery refreshments, and the arts community!

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## SUMMER PROGRAMS 2025

- **Craft Youth Culture 2024-25 Celebration and Catalog Launch**

Sunday, June 8 | 1:30 – 3:30 pm | In-person, museum courtyard

Free with RSVP

Craft Youth Culture is a free after-school program designed for creative high-school students. This year a group of LA youths worked with artist Natalie Godinez to create personal archives, learn from each other and collaborate. Come meet the artists and celebrate their work! If you are a highly motivated 9th - 12th-grade student who is interested in applying for our Fall class, come to the event and visit [craftcontemporary.org/teens](https://craftcontemporary.org/teens) to learn more about the program.

- **Open Clay Time**

Weekly, Fridays, June 20 – September 5, 2025 | 3 – 6 pm | In-person, museum drop-in class

Museum admission + \$5 materials fee per person

Join us weekly on Fridays throughout the summer for open-ended air-dry clay drop-in classes. Try your hand at a selection of clay projects using simple sculpting and joining techniques. All ages welcome!

First-come-first-served, no RSVP required. Family passholders do not need to pay a material fee.

- **Drawing Together with Wayne Schroeder**

Sat June 7 | 1:30–3:30 PM | in-person, in gallery and in courtyard

Free with RSVP | Ages 5+

Enjoy some collaborative creativity exercises in the gallery and then make your own large-scale collaborative drawing and mark-making with teaching artist Wayne Schroeder. Drawing together brings us together! Drawing materials will be provided. Visit [craftcontemporary.org/programs/](https://craftcontemporary.org/programs/) to learn more and register.

- **Craft Lab Family Workshop: Sense and Story**

Sun July 13 | 1:30–3:30 PM | in-person, indoors

\$10 adults | \$10 children | free for members

Get inspired by Ether's smell-based art, creating plant-based "smell" collages as well as recycled flower 3D creations inspired by Karola Braga. Visit [craftcontemporary.org/programs/](https://craftcontemporary.org/programs/) to learn more and register.

- **Craft Lab Family Workshop: Sun Printing Our City**

Sun Aug 10 | 1:30–3:30 PM | in-person, indoors/outdoors  
\$10 adults | \$10 children | free for members

Let's take a short walk in the neighborhood to find sidewalk treasures and make our own LA-specific cyanotype prints (with pre-treated paper) inspired by the work of Felix Quintana. We'll also learn about the power of the sun with M + A's solar panel installation. Visit [craftcontemporary.org/programs/](https://craftcontemporary.org/programs/) to learn more and register.

- **Smells Like Art: Last Saturday Multisensory Tours**

Sat June 28 | 11 – 12 pm | free with museum admission

Sat July 26 | 11-12 pm | free with museum admission

Sat Aug 30 | 11-12 pm | free with museum admission

Experience art through all of your senses by getting up close and personal with smell-based art from the Institute of Olfaction, and engaging in multisensory play with artists' work from The Air We Share. Ages 5+. Visit [craftcontemporary.org/programs](https://craftcontemporary.org/programs) to learn more and register.

- **Evening for Educators at Craft Contemporary**

Thu Jul 31 | 5 – 7 pm | free evening for educators

Visit our galleries after hours, connect with local educators and get an inside scoop on curriculum development and creating multisensory, accessible gallery tools. Enjoy open-ended art-making activities with our education team and meet new friends. Refreshments and snacks provided. Free for all educators. Visit [craftcontemporary.org/programs/](https://craftcontemporary.org/programs/) to learn more and register.

- **Community Craft Day with Raymundo Reynoso**

Sun Sept 7 | 1–4 PM | in-person, outdoors | free | drop in | RSVP recommended

Join exhibiting artist Raymundo T. Reynoso in a collaborative artmaking activity using stenciling, found images and found typography. Enjoy a gallery conversation with Reynoso and explore how text and image interact to create stories of our city. Visit [craftcontemporary.org/programs/](https://craftcontemporary.org/programs/) to learn more and register.

- **Back to School with Craft Contemporary**

Guided school visits for the 2025-26 year will be open on September 1! Guided school visits are designed for 3rd to 12th grade students and include a hands-on craft workshop as well as an interactive gallery experience. Request a visit and find out more at [craftcontemporary.org/schools/](https://craftcontemporary.org/schools/)

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Craft Contemporary is an art museum whose purpose is to reveal the potential of craft to educate, captivate, provoke, and empower. Craft Contemporary achieves its mission by exhibiting the artists of our time who favor craft materials and processes. We give a voice to local, emerging, and mid-career artists whose works are overlooked. The museum strives to achieve equitable access through free and low-cost programs, and the inclusion of multiple teaching artists from communities throughout Los Angeles who offer unique art-making workshops, K-12 school programs, senior adult workshops, and art talks. For more information, visit [www.craftcontemporary.org](http://www.craftcontemporary.org).

LOCATION: 5814 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036

ADMISSION: \$9 for adults; \$7 for students, teachers, seniors; free for Craft Contemporary members; FREE admission every Sunday

HOURS: Monday - Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday - Sunday: 11 am to 5 pm

First Thu every month: 12 - 8 pm

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## ARTISTS AND CURATOR BIOGRAPHIES

**Ray Anthony Barrett** (b. 1980) has an interdisciplinary practice situated at the intersection of art and gastronomy. Since 2018, his pop-up, CINQVÉ, has been devoted to tracing the evolution of Soul Food from California to its West African origins. GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN, a project commissioned by Active Cultures, traces a seven-month journey across the varied landscapes of the Western states. This multifaceted endeavor—spanning writing, research, film, and cooking—unfolded over the course of two years, interrogating the evolution of agricultural and land practices and the impact of dispossession and colonialism on foodways, tracing its roots from settler colonialism to present day modes of capitalism and overconsumption. Several of these themes are also explored in Barrett's drawings, paintings, sculptures, photographs, and quilts. He has presented solo exhibitions at Diane Rosenstein Gallery (2014), Wilding Cran Gallery (2022), and as part of the City of West Hollywood Moving Image Media Art Exhibition Series (2023).

**Salvador de la Torre** (b. 1989) is a Mexican-born, Texas-raised artist, educator, and storyteller based in Los Angeles. Working across drawing, performance, printmaking, and sculpture, their practice draws on personal and familial narratives to explore themes of migration, memory, queerness, and gender. Their works offer counter-narratives to dominant portrayals of immigrant and queer communities, grounded in joy, struggle, adaptability, and tenderness. Through intimate, everyday gestures, de la Torre's art bridges activism and self-acceptance, emphasizing vulnerability, proximity, and care as forms of resistance. They have exhibited nationally and internationally, including solo exhibitions at Daphne Art Foundation (2024), Grand Central Art Center (2019), and Eastside International (2018), and group exhibitions at Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Museum of Design Atlanta, and the Oceanside Museum of Art, among others. They hold an MFA from California State University, Fullerton, and a BA from Texas A&M International University.



**Mercedes Dorame** (b. 1980) is a visual artist born and raised in her ancestral homelands of Tovaangar. Through photography, installation, and site-responsive work, Dorame challenges the erasure of Indigenous presence in contemporary landscapes, proposing visual and material frameworks for reasserting cultural memory and connections to land and sky. Dorame's work is part of numerous museum collections and she has exhibited widely, including *Made in L.A.* 2018 at the Hammer Museum; *Borderlands* (2022-2025) at the Huntington; as well as recent solo exhibitions at Oxy Arts (2024) and the inaugural Rotunda Commission at the Getty Center (2023–24). She has also curated significant exhibitions including *Crossing Waters: Contemporary Tongva Artists Carrying Pimugna* at the Catalina Museum for Art & History (2022–23) and *The Iridescence of Knowing* at Oxy Arts (2023). Dorame received her MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute and BA from UCLA. She is Co-Program Director and faculty in the Photography and Media program at CalArts.

**Leslie Foster** (b. 1984) is a multimedia artist whose work merges experimental film with immersive installation to create contemplative ecologies exploring Black and queer futurity. Inspired by a childhood spent in Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Michigan, Foster's storytelling is rooted in collaboration, community-building, and speculative world-making. He earned his MFA in Design | Media Arts from UCLA in 2022 and attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture the same year. Foster's work has been exhibited internationally, including at Outfest—where his four-channel installation *Heavenly Brown Body* won the Documentary Grand Jury Prize—and in solo exhibitions such as *59*, the result of a year-long residency with Level Ground. He is a 2023–2026 Visual Arts Fellow at the Montalvo Arts Center, a 2024 Headlands Center for the Arts resident, a recipient of the LACE Lightning Fund (2023). Foster currently serves as Assistant Professor of Time-Based Media at California State University, San Marcos.

**Maria Maea** (b. 1988) is a multidisciplinary artist working across sculpture, installation, performance, film, and sound. Drawing on her Samoan and Mexican heritage, Maea creates artworks rooted in somatic memory, ancestry, and the landscapes of Los Angeles, where she was born and raised. Her sculptures—made from palm fronds, concrete, rebar, seed pods, and repurposed materials—occupy a space between figuration and abstraction, often serving as ritual vessels or “future ancestors.” Sourcing materials from local sites such as the Los Angeles River and her home garden, Maea embeds each work with personal and collective histories. Maea has performed and exhibited widely, including *Made in L.A. 2023: Acts of Living* at the Hammer Museum and *The California Biennial 2022: Pacific Gold* at the Orange County Museum of Art; as well as solo exhibitions at *Parallel Oaxaca* (2025), *Murmurs* (2022, 2023), and *LaPau Gallery* (2021).

**Maryrose Cobarrubias Mendoza** (b. 1966) is a multidisciplinary artist whose work explores memory, loss, and transformation through drawing, sculpture, and installation. A 1.75-generation Filipino immigrant who grew up in Los Angeles in the 1970s, Mendoza draws on personal history and material culture to navigate the complexities of assimilation and identity in a post-colonial context. Her work reimagines pre-existing objects and images into a visual language of evolving self-recognition. For thirty years, Mendoza has exhibited her work nationally and internationally, including solo exhibitions at *From Typhoon* (2021); *Orange County Museum of Art* (2020); and *COOP* (2019). Mendoza has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the City of Los Angeles (C.O.L.A.), and *Art Matters*. She is Associate Professor and Drawing Coordinator at Pasadena City College and previously served on the Board of Directors of *FilAm Arts*. Mendoza earned her MFA from Claremont Graduate University and BA from California State University, Los Angeles.

**Genevieve Erin O'Brien** (b. 1974) is a queer, non-binary, mixed-race Vietnamese/Irish/German artist based in Los Angeles. Their transdisciplinary practice—spanning performance, video, installation, fiber arts, culinary work, and social practice—centers themes of identity, diaspora, decolonization, queer domesticity, and community care. O'Brien holds an MFA in Performance from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and is a former Fulbright Fellow to Vietnam. Their work has been supported by the City of Los Angeles' Creative Economic Development Fund, the Critical Refugee Studies Collective, and USC's Annenberg Innovation Lab, where they were a Civic Media Fellow. As a U.S. Department of State/ZERO1 artist, they developed an LGBTQ+ digital media project in Hanoi. Their projects *More Than Love on the Horizon* and *Sugar Rebels* were commissioned by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center. O'Brien is also a chef and founder of the queer culinary venture *Meat My Friends*, where their passion for fermentation, dumplings, and storytelling converge.

**Felix Quintana** (b. 1991) is an artist and educator born and raised in Lynwood, California. Quintana's multidisciplinary practice spans photography, digital media, collage, and installation. Recent solo exhibitions include *Fantasma Paraiso*, a multisite exhibition presented by Los Angeles Nomadic Division (LAND), *Cruising Below Sunset* at Residency Art Gallery, and *Love is the given of the place* at Cypress College. Quintana's work has been featured in NPR, The Guardian, Los Angeles Times, and KCET Artbound. He is represented in the public collections of Oakland Museum of California, LA County Civic Art Collection, Altamed Art Collection, and Cal Poly Humboldt. Recent awards include 2024-2025 California Community Foundation Fellowship for Visual Arts, 2023-2026 Lucas Artist Fellowship at Montalvo Arts Center, 2023 Mohn LAND Grant, and 2022 LACE Lightning Fund. Quintana has lectured at numerous institutions, including UCLA, SFAI, Hammer Museum, Oxy Arts, and California African American Museum. Quintana holds an MFA from San Jose State University and a BA in Photography from Cal Poly Humboldt.

**Gabriela Ruiz** (b. 1991) is a multidisciplinary artist and designer whose work spans sculpture, video, performance, painting, installation, and apparel design. Drawing on her Mexican American identity and a strong DIY ethos, Ruiz explores themes of surveillance, consumerism, and the emotional effects of technology. Her immersive installations often subvert systems of hyper-surveillance that impact marginalized communities, while her use of bold, saturated color challenges racialized perceptions of aesthetics and disrupts the sterility of institutional spaces. Ruiz has exhibited and performed internationally in art institutions, nightlife venues, and through public interventions. Solo exhibitions include the Little Tokyo Art Complex (2017), Vincent Price Art Museum (2018–19), LaPau Gallery (2021), Anat Ebgi (2022), Palm Springs Art Museum (2022), and the Institute for the Humanities Gallery at the University of Michigan (2023). She has curated group exhibitions including *Elixir* (2023) and *NEXUS* (2023), and a collaborative *Outburst Project* with Karla Ekatherine Canseco, Maria Maea, Clara Nieblas, and Ruben Ulises Rodriguez Montoya at the Palm Springs Art Museum (2022).

**Bumdog Torres** (b. 1969) is an artist, writer, filmmaker, and street photographer born and raised in the Crenshaw District of Los Angeles. Describing himself as a career homeless man, Torres has spent much of his adult life navigating the streets of L.A. and abroad. In 2014, after acquiring a used iPhone, he began photographing himself in discarded mirrors, inspired by Vivian Maier. He later transitioned to a point-and-shoot camera, focusing on candid portraits of life on the margins. While living in a downtown L.A. parking lot in the early 2000s, Torres wrote, directed, and starred in a feature-length film adaptation of *Sketches of Nothing* by a Complete Nobody and organized pop-up art shows in vacant storefronts. In 2020, after being housed through a city program, he was commissioned to document street life during the COVID-19 pandemic through photo essays. To date he has self-published five photobooks.

**Raymundo Tonatiuh Reynoso** (b. 1972) is an interdisciplinary artist based in Los Angeles whose practice spans painting, printmaking, photography, graphic design, and public space interventions. His work is figurative and often created with repurposed materials such as wood, construction remnants, and found signage. Born in Mexico City, Reynoso immigrated to the U.S. at age six—an experience that continues to shape his interests in social justice and intersectional issues facing marginalized communities, including labor injustice, wealth inequality, and lack of affordable housing within the city. Reynoso's work is represented in the collections of the Getty Research Institute, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and Self-Help Graphics & Art, and he has exhibited widely, including solo exhibitions at the Luckman Gallery at Cal State L.A., and group exhibitions at the Pasadena Museum of California Art, Chinese American Museum, and A+D Museum. He holds an MFA in Design | Media Arts from UCLA.

## ABOUT THE CURATOR

Joseph Daniel Valencia is a curator, educator, historian, and writer. He currently serves as Curator of Exhibitions at the Vincent Price Art Museum at East Los Angeles College, where since 2016 he has developed projects focused on American, Latin American, and modern and contemporary art. A scholar of Latinx art and history, his recent exhibitions include *We Place Life at the Center / Situamos la vida en el centro* (2024-2025), *Sonic Terrains in Latinx Art* (2022), and *Liberate the Bar! Queer Nightlife, Activism, and Spacemaking* (2019). Valencia was born in Orange County, California and raised in a Mexican and Chicano household. His family history in Orange and the El Modena barrio dates back to the early 1900s and continues to inspire his passion for uplifting underrepresented histories and communities in Southern California and beyond. He holds a Master's degree from USC and a Bachelor's degree from California State University, Fullerton.