



EMORY

MICHAEL C.  
CARLOS  
MUSEUM

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: **Emily Knight**

Office: 404-727-6117

Emily.Knight@emory.edu

**The Michael C. Carlos Museum Presents**  
***You Belong Here: Place, People, and Purpose***  
***in Latinx Photography***

[Atlanta, Georgia, August 1, 2023]— *You Belong Here: Place, People, and Purpose in Latinx Photography* celebrates the rich and dynamic photography of Latinx artists from across the United States. The exhibition, organized by Aperture and curated by Pilar Tompkins Rivas, chief curator and deputy director of curatorial and collections at the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art in Los Angeles, examines the multifaceted experiences, identities, and voices of Latinx artists. The exhibition will be on view at Emory’s Michael C. Carlos Museum from September 9 to December 3, 2023.

*You Belong Here* brings together established and emerging Latinx artists, whose works span the 1960s to the present and who explore themes ranging from political resistance to family and community dynamics, fashion, culture, and the complexities of identity in American life. Contributing to a vast visual archive, these artists capture the Latinx experience as diverse, nuanced, and fluid, illustrating a wide spectrum of histories, geographies, social, and artistic movements.

In the *Latinx* issue of *Aperture* magazine, Tompkins Rivas writes of the photographers gathered here: “Collectively, their images cast a greater net for the multiple ways of seeing Latinx people, creating a visual archive whose edges are yet to be defined. As the canons of art and history must be pushed to meet the world we live in, so too must the systems that support its visual documentation—from academia, to museums, to the market, and beyond.”

“As an academic museum, the Carlos is charged with pushing and challenging canon in just this way—to meet the world we inhabit, to support those who are under-represented in museums and under-recognized in art historical canon,” notes curator of Works on Paper Andi McKenzie, who served as site curator for the exhibition.

*You Belong Here* features artists Laura Aguilar, Genesis Báez, William Camargo, Sofía Córdova, Perla de Leon, Tarrah Krajnak, Hiram Maristany, Joiri Minaya, Steven Molina Contreras, Star Montana, Eddie Quiñones, Reynaldo Rivera, Guadalupe Rosales, Gabriela Ruiz, Bibs Moreno, and John M. Valadez.

Together, the photographs in the exhibition create an expansive dialogue about visibility and belonging, chronicled as processes that expand and evolve to resist forms of cultural erasure.

Of the established photographers featured in *You Belong Here*, Hiram Maristany, who passed away last year, is arguably the most well-known. The official photographer and co-founder of the New York chapter of the Young Lords, a 1960s and 70s Puerto Rican activist group, Maristany documented the Young Lords' rallies and neighborhood organizing. He also redefined imagery of Puerto Ricans living in New York, challenging the negative photojournalistic portrayals that he saw on the news by capturing vibrant and joyous images of life in his beloved East Harlem neighborhood, despite the poverty and discrimination faced by its residents.

The exhibition also includes works from two series by late Chicana photographer Laura Aguilar, on loan from LACMA, in which the artist openly investigated her own identities in groundbreaking images of queer life in Eastside Los Angeles. A lesbian who was large-bodied, struggled with a learning disability, and suffered from depression, Aguilar confronted complex questions of belonging and addressed these, as well as the exclusionary attitude of arts institutions toward nonwhite, nonnormative artists, in her work.

The exhibition will also feature a new video and sound installation by Sofía Córdova, *GUILLOTINAE Wanna Cry, Act Yellow: Break Room*, in which the artist reframes and reimagines moments of political upheaval, challenging perceptions of revolution as quick, immediate action and bringing to light the labor of organization and its often improvisational components.

The related *Aperture* publication is featured within the exhibition and available for purchase at the Carlos Museum Bookshop and [online](#).

### **About Aperture**

Aperture is a nonprofit publisher that leads conversations around photography worldwide. From its base in New York, Aperture connects global audiences and supports artists through its acclaimed quarterly magazine, books, exhibitions, digital platforms, public programs, limited-edition prints, and awards. Established in 1952 to advance "creative thinking, significantly expressed in words and photographs," Aperture champions photography's vital role in nurturing curiosity and encouraging a more just, tolerant society. For more information, visit [aperture.org](http://aperture.org).

### **About the Michael C. Carlos Museum**

Set in the heart of Emory's Atlanta campus, the Michael C. Carlos Museum is a dynamic, interdisciplinary center for study of art and culture, with collections from Africa; ancient Egypt; Nubia, and the Near East; ancient Greece and Rome; the Indigenous Americas; South Asia; and American and European Works on Paper.

Through our permanent collection galleries, engaging special exhibitions, and innovative programs for audiences of all ages, the Carlos Museum connects the past with the present and the campus with the community.

Curators and faculty develop original exhibitions, engage in interdisciplinary research and teaching, and host touring exhibitions that complement our collections and support the teaching mission of the university. The museum's conservators collaborate with staff, faculty, and students to conduct research and manage preventive care on the museum's varied collections. Museum educators reach across the museum, campus, and city to develop opportunities to engage the intellect and the imagination of university students and faculty, preK-12 students and teachers, and the larger Atlanta community.

The Michael C. Carlos Museum is open Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday: noon – 5 p.m. For more information, visit [carlos.emory.edu/visit](https://carlos.emory.edu/visit), call 404.727.4282, or follow @CarlosMuseum on social media.

carlos.emory.edu

###