

MUJERES



Claudia Alvarez

Nancy Friedemann-Sánchez

Linda Garcia-Perez

Reneé A. Ledesma

Sandra Williams

October 18, 2016 – February 12, 2017

MUJERES, translated to “women” in English, focuses on the work of five contemporary Latina artists with relationships to Nebraska. Those selected to take part in this exhibition are Mexican-born, New York and Omaha-based artist, Claudia Alvarez; Colombian-born, Brooklyn and Lincoln-based artist, Nancy Friedemann-Sánchez; Mexican-American Omaha artist Linda Garcia-Perez; Mexican-American Omaha artist René A. Ledesma; and Peruvian descent, Lincoln artist Sandra Williams.

While each of these artists hails from different backgrounds and experiences, different cultures and countries within the Latino experience, their work swirls around themes of family, history, society, and spirituality, as well as finding a sense of place in the American landscape. Building on those themes, palpable narratives transpire within each artist’s work that tell of intersections and connectivity – a space of the “in-between.” These intersections link the past and the present, family and society, femininity and masculinity, the natural world and the supernatural, Latino culture and Anglo culture, and humanity and the environment. As Muriel Hasbun, photographer and Associate Chair of the Corcoran College of Design in Washington, D.C. states, “Latinos serve as cultural interpreters” – they live in two cultures (sometimes more) yet all at once exist as a whole.

This life of the “in-between” and serving as “interpreters” is manifested throughout *Mujeres*. While each artist worked independently of each other and is stylistically unique, most having never met prior to the exhibition, their work includes similar imagery, symbolism, and subject matter in addition to the exploration of parallel themes.

In Claudia Alvarez’s installation *La Casa de Tierra* (*The House of the Earth*), the artist has positioned ceramic figures, including that of a mother and child, adjacent to a ceramic tree and flowers. In the background is a Surrealist-inspired painting of a female figure moving through a wilderness. Together the works tell of the connectivity of women to the earth inspired by Pre-Colombian ceramic figures celebrating motherhood as a force that relates to the earth and the cosmos. Similarly, in Linda Garcia-Perez’s paintings and *papel picado* (cut-paper) pieces, the artist also uses Surreal imagery. In *Cuando La Lengua Murio* (*When the Language Died, She also Died*), an Aztec-inspired dream is depicted that spews from the mouth of a female figure in repose, connecting the supernatural world to the natural. Garcia-Perez’s *papel picado* works present women figures immersed in and emerging from surrounding flora – exploring woman’s connectivity to the earth.

In *Cornucopia*, the richly painted and collaged, large-scale, immersive work of Nancy Friedemann-Sánchez, the artist presents us with an explosion of flora, hundreds of flowers emerging from a centralized vase on a black background along with folk-inspired drawings of native Colombian fauna. The floral imagery is borrowed from Spanish colonial botanical illustrations. On the outskirts of the flora and fauna, small images of men appear, holding guns, pointed and ready. This is the meeting of sides, the confrontation that inevitably lies therein. For Sandra Williams and René Ledesma, the artists almost solely use imagery of flora and fauna to speak about our world and lives today. Williams’ intricate cut-paper pieces tell the story of the Bear Prince, a Peruvian folk-tale of a woman’s relationship with a man whose true form is that of a bear. The resulting tale is one of conflict and loss, a narrative that is reflected in society today. Ledesma’s ceramic sculptures of birds, foxes, owls, and other animals are inspired by the Native American belief of what animals represent and the power and messages they can hold for us, if we choose to believe.

Mujeres is an important exhibition for MONA as it represents an on-going commitment by the Museum to continually explore what constitutes a Nebraska artist. The perspectives from these artists, distinctively feminine and distinctly Latino, yet wholly American, further expand our ideas of our communities and this world.

EXHIBITION LIST

Claudia Alvarez

<i>El Bosque</i>	oil on canvas	2015
<i>La Casa de Tierra</i>	ceramic installation	2014-2016

Nancy Friedemann-Sánchez

<i>Cornucopia</i>	India ink on Tyvek, collage	2016
-------------------	-----------------------------	------

Linda Garcia-Perez

<i>Amor/Love</i>	cut paper	2016
<i>Cuando La Lenguaje Murió, Ella También Murió/ When the Language Died, She Also Died</i>	acrylic	1978
<i>El Tiempo Para Florecer I/Time to Bloom I</i>	cut paper	2016
<i>El Tiempo Para Florecer II/Time to Bloom II</i>	cut paper, color pencil	2016
<i>La Mama y El Hijo/The Mother and The Son</i>	acrylic	1981
<i>Las Semillas de la Herencia/The Heritage Seeds</i>	cut paper	2016
<i>Los Mensajes de las Mariposas/The Messages of the Butterflies</i>	cut paper	2012

Reneé A. Ledesma

<i>Bird Altars (Face to Face)</i>	gray stoneware, ink, wood, and acrylic	2016
<i>Meditation Vase #1</i>	terra cotta and acrylic	2016
<i>Meditation Vase #2</i>	white stoneware and acrylic	2016
<i>Meditation Vase #3</i>	gray stoneware and acrylic	2016
<i>Meditation Vase #4</i>	white stoneware and acrylic	2016
<i>The Fox</i>	terra cotta and acrylic	2016
<i>The Crow</i>	terra cotta and acrylic	2016
<i>The Owl</i>	terra cotta and acrylic	2016
<i>The Squirrel</i>	terra cotta and acrylic	2016

Sandra Williams

<i>Ukuku 1</i>	cut paper	2015
<i>Ukuku 2: La Selva</i>	cut paper	2015
<i>Ukuku 3: The Journey</i>	cut paper	2015
<i>Ukuku 4: Pablucha (Bear Son)</i>	cut paper	2016
<i>Ukuku 5: Regresar</i>	cut paper	2016
<i>Ukuku 6: The Death of the Bear Prince</i>	cut paper	2015
<i>Ukuku 7: Transfiguración</i>	cut paper	2016

All works Collection of the Artist

Sponsored by Younes Hospitality, Paul and Linda Younes
Humanities Nebraska and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment



MUSEUM OF NEBRASKA ART

2401 Central Avenue • Kearney, NE 68847 • (308) 865-8559 • mona.unk.edu

Hours: Tue-Sat 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m. Closed: Mondays and major holidays



Community
Services Fund
of Nebraska

Image (detail): Nancy Friedemann-Sánchez, *Cornucopia*, India ink on Tyvek, collage; 2016, Collection of the Artist

