

TEXT/LOGO SAFE LINE

TRIM LINE

BLEED LINE

## Curatorial Statement

By **Gabriela Uriaga**  
Chief Curator at the Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA)

We are so pleased to come together to celebrate Latinx art and its cultural legacy during Hispanic Heritage Month. "DRIVEN" is a special and innovative experience where we show some of today's ground-breaking Latinx artists and their unique imagery.

This rich dialogue between contemporary artists takes place in a journey that proposes a new perspective in the way we see all art. It's not only an aesthetic experience, but also an opportunity to see something with a meaningful message and new ideas. Something different, something inspirational.

Diversity, inclusion, equality, equity and utopic universes are some of the topics these artists from different latitudes and contexts address in their work. From the empowering of women in the work of the renowned **Patssi Valdez** and **Judithe Hernández**, creating personal and mythical scenery and imagery; the urban life and ethnicity in **Carlos Almaraz**, and the vibrant colors and expression of **Steffano Álvarez**; the language of freedom of **Diana Gómez**, the existential reflection on humanity in **Norberto Rodríguez's** work; the gender diversity and the homage to the LGBTQ community in the art of **Chiachio & Giannone**; the heritage of artesian roots in **Denise López**, and the poetic and symbolic elements of the environment in **Delmar Mejías**.

In times where things are uncertain and complicated, art has the extraordinary ability to bring us inspiration, ideas, knowledge and beauty. These artists show their tremendous commitment to build a better future together.

Welcome everyone and we hope you enjoy the experience!



At Hyundai Motor America, we believe everyone deserves better. From the way we design and build our cars to the way we treat the people who drive them, making things better is at the heart of everything we do. Hyundai's technology-rich product lineup of cars, SUVs and alternative-powered electric and fuel cell vehicles is backed by Hyundai Assurance—our promise to create a better experience for customers. Hyundai vehicles are sold and serviced through more than 820 dealerships nationwide and nearly half of those sold in the U.S. are built at Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama. Hyundai Motor America is headquartered in Fountain Valley, California, and is a subsidiary of Hyundai Motor Company of Korea.



The Museum of Latin American Art expands knowledge and appreciation of modern and contemporary Latin American and Latino art through its Collection, ground-breaking Exhibitions, stimulating Educational Programs, and engaging Cultural Events. The Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA) was founded in 1996 in Long Beach, California and serves the greater Los Angeles area. MOLAA is the only museum in the United States dedicated to modern and contemporary Latin American and Latino art. Since its inception, MOLAA has doubled its size and added a 15,000 sq. ft. sculpture garden. It's permanent collection now numbers over 1,600 works of art.



THE ART OF ELYSIUM

The Art of Elysium was founded in 1997 to support artists working for the benefit of others. For over twenty-one years, we've paired volunteer artists with communities in Los Angeles to support individuals in the midst of difficult emotional life challenges like illness, hospitalization, displacement, confinement, and/or crisis. We serve medically fragile children, teens, adults, seniors, those dealing with social, emotional and mental health issues, and the homeless.



# DRIVEN

## A LATINX ARTIST CELEBRATION

### #ArtHeals



THE ART OF ELYSIUM

## 1. Carlos Almaraz b. 1941 - 1989

Widely known for his contributions to the Chicano art world through his work with Los Four, a Los Angeles-based Chicano art collective responsible for bringing Chicano art to the attention of American art institutions, Almaraz reached critical local and international acclaim inspiring a generation struggling with their identity and place in society while simultaneously inspiring future generations. Almaraz's style and technique developed drastically with life events that shaped his world views. Reflected through the extreme color palettes of his artwork, some works feed the eye with tremendous reds, yellows, and blues, while his later works draw the viewer to dive into the deep, dark sea of colors characteristic of the time period when he learned he had contracted HIV.

## 2. Norberto Rodríguez

Norberto Rodríguez has explored and experimented with his own life as art for institutions, brands, corporations and friends, as the world's premiere conceptual artist since 1975. As humankind enters its third renaissance, Norberto is developing new ideas to help the world heal + understand the true nature of art, science, spirituality and medicine including our role in the continued evolution of consciousness. He's launching an ongoing suite of exciting new projects, becoming the first publicly traded artist in history and continues to share every aspect of his life as art on digital media, across all platforms as @norbertoinc. Follow his journey, visit [norber.to](http://norber.to)

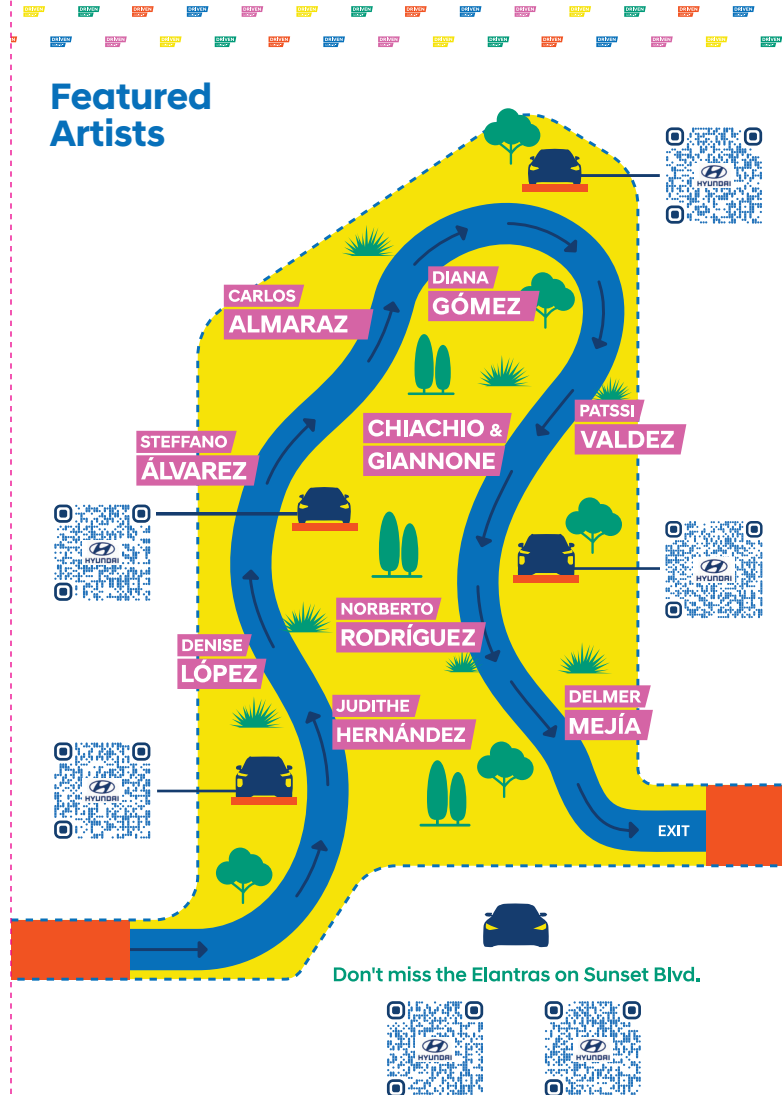
## 3. Chiachio & Giannone

Working and living together as partners in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Leo Chiachio & Daniel Giannone both trained as painters and now use threads and fabric as their painterly medium to create hand embroidery and textile mosaics as they "paint with needles". Chiachio & Giannone's textile mosaics are references to LGBTQ artists and their legacy in Latin America. Chiachio & Giannone recently completed a residency at the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach, CA and have shown at Chamber Gallery, New York, NY; Bernice Steinbaum Gallery, Miami, FL; the Boston Center for the Arts, Boston, MA.

## 4. Judithe Hernández b. 1948

Judithe Hernandez was a pioneer in the Chicano Movement advocating for a critical feminist understanding of the sociopolitical era. Her murals garnered her initial acclaim later becoming known for her work with pastels. Through her art, she continues to push a feminist narrative commenting on the sexism found within the Chicano community while creating works that realize women in a positive light - aiming for their portrayal as human beings and not objects. She became the "fifth member" and only female of Los Four. Politics have played a huge role in the art Hernandez makes as she has used her platform to discuss issues that are faced by the Latino community.

## Featured Artists



## 5. Stefano Álvarez

Steffano Alvarez AKA Step Son is an urban, contemporary artist blending styles from the street with a refined abstract palette. Born in Miami, raised in Santiago, Chile and Los Angeles. Step is a true artist by nature with the ability to manipulate and transform any type of media in a freestyle fashion.

## 6. Diana Gómez

Born and raised in Caracas, Venezuela and developing her photographic career in London for the last 20 years, Diana grew up surrounded by color and nature in a big, developing city. Influenced by great filmmakers and her love for humanity, people, nature, music and narratives, Diana's beautifully lit and colorful images capture a sense of optimism, power and beauty that portrays her subjects in a confident and engaging way.

## 7. Patssi Valdez b. 1951

Patssi Valdez is a visual artist and a founding member of the art collective, ASCO. Her artistic contributions in ASCO challenged the dominant narrative of the Chicano Movement and Chicano Art to provide an expanded and contemporary vision of Chicana/o identity. Her work with ASCO contributed to a Chicana feminist critique of the socioeconomic and sociopolitical reality of the Chicano community living in the United States. In her visual art practice including paintings, Valdez works to capture what is going on for her internally and spatially.

## 8. Denise López of D: Ceramics

Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Lopez draws from her background to create thoughtfully understated, everyday ceramics that celebrate a timeless aesthetic. Her artistic process is one of discovery that brings peace while teaching her how to embrace imperfection. It is her belief that in concentrating on the finer details, encouraging a slower pace, and appreciating the importance of each step, the intention and care that goes into her work is what makes each piece personal and unique. Her work is inspired by her heritage, mid-century pottery and minimalist design.

## 8. Delmer Mejía b. 1954

Delmer Mejía was born in Santa Rosa de Copán, Honduras. Mejía addresses the issue of migration through the symbol of fish, which he places in a different environment than their natural habitat of water, to represent the uprooting of people, and culture when they seek a better future.

\*Some of the art you see here today are custom reproductions, created with care and in coordination with the original artists, in an effort to protect their priceless pieces from the elements and to preserve them for viewing at MOLAA for years to come.