

### ***A Decolonial Atlas: Strategies in Contemporary Art of the Americas***

January 16 - April 15, 2018

**Opening reception: January 18 at 5:00-7:00 pm**



Laura Huertas Millán, still from *Journey to a Land Otherwise Known*, 2011, video. Courtesy of the artist and Le Fresnoy.

MEDFORD, MA - The Tufts University Art Galleries at the Shirley and Alex Aidekman Arts Center proudly presents *A Decolonial Atlas: Strategies in Contemporary Art of the Americas* from January 16 through April 15, 2018. A public opening reception will take place on January 18 at 5:00 pm in the Remis Sculpture Court.

Drawing from the hemispheric context of the Americas, and broad questions of civilization and culture, *A Decolonial Atlas: Strategies in Contemporary Art of the Americas* presents recent works by artists from the United States and Latin America who grapple with continued questions of colonialism and postcolonialism. The exhibition highlights the medium of video as a critical tool for expanded narratives and immersive imagery, in addition to painting, photography, sculpture and works on paper.

Divisions between the "material" and "spiritual" development of culture, a distinction advocated by Alexander von Humboldt after his expedition in North and South America at the beginning of the nineteenth-century, untether inherited and ancestral knowledge formations from empirical observation. Such ethnographic accounts of the Americas by European colonizers are representative of the contested histories that have unfolded over past centuries, and which have replicated in the modern era under new geopolitical forces. In the twenty-first century, contemporary artists actively contend with this legacy to broach new discourses of decolonization. Foregrounding questions of place and positionality, these artists seek to unsettle established narratives through counter-hegemonic perspectives.

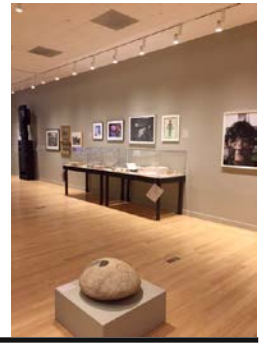
*A Decolonial Atlas: Strategies in Contemporary Art of the Americas* is organized by the Vincent Price Art Museum and curated by Pilar Tompkins Rivas. Artists in the exhibition include Iván Argote, Isabel Avila, Raul Baltazar, Tania Candiani, Carolina Caycedo, E.D.E.L.O (Caleb Duarte and Mia Eve Rollow), Ricardo Estrada, Jeffrey Gibson, Martine Gutierrez, Pablo Helguera, Laura Huertas Millán, Carlos Motta, Paulo Nazareth, Camilo Ontiveros, Eamon Ore-Giron, Postcommodity, Naufus Ramírez-Figueroa, Marton Robinson, and Javier Tapia.

## Also on view....

16 January - 8 April

DIRECTED LOOKING: WUNDERKAMMER

In 16th-century Europe, *Wunderkammern* (curiosity cabinets) emerged as people attempted to understand the world through objects, sparking centuries of classification practices we still see today. This Directed Looking Gallery installation questions such categorization and includes objects from a range of University Collections, encompassing everything from paintings to fossils, encouraging visitors to consider the overlapping areas of art and science.



16 January - May 6

ARTIST RESPONSE

*Artist Response* is an ongoing initiative at both gallery locations in Medford and Boston that highlights how artists have used creative strategies to respond to historical and contemporary social crises through direct action, solidarity efforts, and critical reflection. In Spring 2018, *Artist Response* will include contributions from the *Documents of Resistance* project on the history of art and activism by artists of color and a mixtape of creative activist tactics by Houston artist Carrie Schneider.

"Our Oppression Is Connected" (detail), *Documents of Resistance* (series), 2017.



16 January - 15 April

JILLIAN MAYER: SLUMPIES

Presented in two parts on the Medford and Boston campuses, Jillian Mayer's *Slumpies* are "sculptures that work for you." While abstract and colorful, *Slumpies* are designed to support smartphone users as a post posture sculptural solutions, acknowledging our ever-increasing relationship with technology.

*Slumpies* is presented as part of a citywide partnership of arts and educational institutions organized to recognize the outsized role greater Boston has played in the history and development of technology. The Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston has initiated this partnership to link concurrent exhibitions and programs related to the themes of the exhibition *Art in the Age of the Internet, 1989 to Today*, on view at the ICA from February 7-May 20, 2018.

Jillian Mayer, *Slumpie 10-Lawn Chair*, 2016. Courtesy of the artist.



## Programs and Event Calendar

8 February 5:00pm

JILLIAN MAYER: DAY OFF SCREENING

Tisch Family Gallery, Medford

15 February 6:00 - 8:00pm

CREATE & EXPLORE: COLLAGING PLACES

Tisch Family Gallery, Medford

28 February 6:00pm

CAROLINA CAYCEDO

SMFA at Tufts, 230 Fenway, Boston

1 March 6:00pm

CURATOR TALK WITH PILAR TOMPKINS RIVAS +  
PERFORMANCE BY ANTHONY ROMERO AND JOSH  
RIOS

Tisch Family Gallery, Medford

2 March 12:00pm

SYMPOSIUM, DECOLONIALITY: AESTHETICS AND  
METHODOLOGIES

Tisch Family Gallery, Medford

15 March 6:30pm

JEFFREY GIBSON: PERFORMANCE

Tisch Family Gallery, Medford

5 April 6:30pm

THROUGH THE REPELLENT FENCE: A LAND ART FILM  
SCREENING AND ARTIST TALK

SMFA at Tufts, 230 Fenway, Boston

12 April 6:00pm

TORTILLA SOCIAL: SALVADOR JIMENEZ

Tisch Family Gallery, Medford

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