



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DIÁLOGOS EXPLORES THE EXPERIENCE OF LATINX ARTISTS IN THE UNITED STATES

Columbus, OH — Seven Latinx artists will display their work as a part of *Diálogos*, a new art exhibition opening this summer at the Conservatory. Upon examination, *Diálogos* will encourage viewers to engage in dialogues about the art and the broader cultural topics it highlights.

The exhibition was curated by Egle Gatins and Elena Osterwalder, two Latina artists who live in Central Ohio. The curators selected the seven local artists and worked with them to identify new and existing pieces to be featured in the exhibition. Each piece is a personal exploration of the creator's role as a Latinx artist in the United States, but collectively they touch on themes of dislocation, integration, cultural identity, and politics.

The artists include:

- Christian Casas
- Eliana Calle Saari
- Florence Gouvrit-Montano
- Pedro Prieto Jr
- Mabi Ponce de León
- Elsie Sanchez
- Micaela de Vivero

These artists represent many cultures and countries such as Argentina, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico and the United States. A variety of mediums are represented as well, including installation, new media, painting and printmaking.

Diálogos is included in admission from June 25 to November 20, 2022. Guests are encouraged but not required to reserve tickets in advance when applicable. The exhibition is made possible by Lead Sponsor Cardinal Health with support from the Greater Columbus Arts Council, Ohio Arts Council, and the Columbus Foundation. For more details, visit fpconservatory.org/dialogos, and follow the Conservatory on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#).

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Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens offers world-class horticulture, art and nature-based exhibitions, and educational programs for all ages. Situated on 40 acres on the eastern side of Franklin Park, the Conservatory features the historic 1895 John F. Wolfe Palm House; 83,000 square feet of glasshouses; botanical gardens including the Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation Children's Garden; and meeting and event spaces. The Conservatory owns the

largest collection of glass artwork by Dale Chihuly in a botanical garden and is home to internationally recognized light artist James Turrell's Light Raiment II, which illuminates the John F. Wolfe Palm House every evening from dusk until dawn.

Artists' Bios

Christian Casas

Christian Casas is a first generation Cuban-American from Hialeah, Florida. He is currently pursuing an MFA in Sculpture from The Ohio State University. In his artistic practice he incorporates found objects, video, pyrographed wood, set design, sound, photography, printmaking, and painting. His artwork explores intergenerational memory, selfhood, and erasure within a diasporic experience.

Eliana Calle Saari

Eliana Calle Saari was born and raised in Medellin, Colombia. She is currently based in Gahanna, Ohio. Her installations and prints are inspired by Colombia, a country known for its culturally rich heritage and where the slippage between "the actual", "the ideal", and "the magical" are simple everyday occurrences. Her artistic process begins with a photograph from her travels. The photograph is not good quality and is instead often blurred or has an unusual composition. That photograph becomes the inspiration for an entire body of work. A recurring motif in her work are monarch butterflies as to her they symbolically represent Colombia for being the location of the world's largest variety of butterfly species and also for their ability to mesh reality and fantasy.

Florence Gouvrit-Montano

Florence Gouvrit-Montano was born in Paris, France but is currently based between Mexico City and Columbus. As a new media artist, Gouvrit utilizes interactive video installations, robotics, data visualization, and digital fabrication. Her work is based on synthetic emotions, artificiality, human-machine interaction, empathy, culture, and technologically mediated behavior. Being bicultural has defined how she perceives the world. As an artist, multiculturalism is not a theme in her work, but a filter to understand, sort and deconstruct the world.

Pedro Prieto Jr

Pedro Prieto Jr was born in Blacksburg, Virginia to Mexican parents. He now resides in Columbus, OH. His artistic practice of engravings and paintings are not consciously based on his national origin. Instead, the contradictions that assail the sons and daughters of immigrants may only be part of his subconscious bias. His motivations to create a piece are different each time, never coming back in the same form and are mostly forgotten when completing the piece.

Mabi Ponce de León

Mabi Ponce de León is from Argentina and is currently based in the midwest while working on a PhD in art history at The Ohio State University. Her practice explores what it feels like to 'be' from two places and belong to neither. Her installations make use of manipulated natural and manufactured materials, whereas her two-dimensional work relies on juxtapositions of found and new images.

Elsie Sanchez

Elsie Sanchez was born in Havana, Cuba and immigrated to the United States at the age of nine. She currently lives and works in Dublin, Ohio. Her large cloth-like abstract paintings suggest the complexities of our bodies. Through Elsie's physical and nurturing connection to painting and inspiration drawn from intricacies and patterns of medieval tapestries, she hopes to capture tangible and intangible sensations that may not so much be seen as felt.

Micaela de Vivero

Micaela de Vivero was born in Munich, Germany and raised in Quito, Ecuador. She is now based in Newark, OH. In her work she explores the production of three-dimensional forms in soft materials that produce environments that invite audience engagement. She makes art from her lived experiences as a woman of color in the United States and from her position as a first-generation immigrant with mixed Latin American background.