

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 23, 2014

***House in the Sky* Exhibition Opens at Latin American Contemporary Art Projects**

Charlotte, North Carolina – Latin American Contemporary Art Projects (LaCa) Gallery announces the November 6, 2014 opening of *Cristina Toro: Casa en el Cielo*, an exhibition that intuitively explores the relationship to nature, inner worlds and unknowable things.

LaCa Projects proudly presents this new collection of paintings by New York-based painter Cristina Toro. Her vibrant canvases are deeply rooted in her enchanted childhood in Puerto Rico. Her life there was filled with a menagerie of exotic pets and trips with her parents to the island's rain forests and El Morro Castle, a picturesque 16th century fort on the San Juan coast. When Toro was ten years old, her family moved to Florida where she would spend the remainder of her youth exploring the humid, swampy landscape.

The exhibition title *Casa en el Cielo* translates to House in the Sky. It is a lyric from the song *Tiempo y Silencio/Time and Silence* by the Cape Verdean singer Cesária Évora (1941-2010). Like the song, these paintings illustrate a mortal journey through time and space -- a journey rite with discovery and loss, laughter and grief, love and longing. The radiant worlds conjured by Toro pulsate with exuberance and ravenous curiosity that sets their inhabitants soaring through the heavens and plunging into hallucinatory underwater realms.

Toro has been featured in solo and group exhibitions in Japan, Mexico, and the United States. She received her BA in painting from the University of South Florida in 2005. In 2007, she received a Strategic Opportunity Stipend from the New York Council for the Arts and a New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) Painting Fellowship in 2010. Her work may be found in numerous private collections as well as the United States Embassy in Mexico, the Dana Farber Institute in Boston, Massachusetts, HPFRANCE in Tokyo, Japan, and Charlotte's own Mint Museum.

An exclusive opening celebration with Toro will take place on Thursday, November 6 from 6-9 p.m. at LaCa Projects Gallery. **Cristina Toro will be available for private preview tours of the exhibition and interviews on November 6. Contact Allie Nunweiler at info@lacaprojects.com or 704.837.1688 to arrange an interview with Toro and/or to RSVP to the preview.**

Casa en el Cielo will be open from November 6 through December 19. Gallery hours are 1-5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and by appointment. Visit www.lacaprojects.com, or call 704-837-1688/e-mail info@lacaprojects.com for more information and for photographs of selected designs from the exhibition.

About LaCa Projects

LaCa Projects opened in 2013 with *poetics of erratic materialism*, a solo exhibition featuring the works of pop-surrealist artist Juan Dolhare (Argentina). Located in the heart of the revitalized FreeMoreWest neighborhood, LaCa Projects is a platform dedicated to the presentation, development, and promotion of

Latin American art and culture within the United States. The gallery encourages cross-cultural dialogue by representing a small group of influential and thought-provoking contemporary, emerging and mid-career artists, as well as exhibiting a broader range of work by established and Master Latin American artists. The gallery is part of a planned expansion that includes artist studios, opening in mid-September 2014, and a cafe.

###