



Gallery Hours:

Tuesday – Friday 11 am – 5:30pm

Saturday: By Appointment

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

In Focus/Enfoque:

*Contemporary Photography
in Mexico*

Exhibition Dates:

September 14 – November 4, 2017

Opening Reception:

Thursday, September 14, 6-10 PM

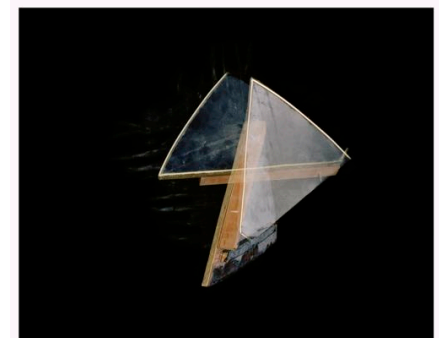


Image credits below.

Charlotte, North Carolina – Latin American Contemporary Art (LaCa) Projects is pleased to present *In Focus/Enfoque: Contemporary Photography in Mexico*, the gallery's first-ever photography exhibition featuring three emerging artists.

Karina Juárez, Alejandra Laviada, and Humberto Ríos, an award-winning trio of contemporary photographers, present powerful works in the gallery's first-ever photography exhibition. The photographs present varying themes and images, ranging from identity and personal loss to metaphorical and autobiographical elements. They also create striking visual narratives taken from the personal experiences of the artists, as well as from conceptual ideas and practices. All three artists have been featured in significant international solo and collective exhibitions.

This exhibition is also part of a broader, ambitious, multi-institution collaboration featuring contemporary Mexican photography, which runs in Charlotte from August 2017 through spring 2018. Inspired by the highly successful Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA, this unique collaboration, which includes LaCa Projects, The Light Factory, The Mint Museum, The Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, The McColl Center for Art + Innovation, SOCO Gallery, and the New Gallery of Modern Art, will exhibit through their exhibitions more than 50 artists from Mexico and the United States. As an exploration of diverse topics and themes—including design, gender, activism, identity, globalism, and borders—*In Focus/Enfoque* will showcase a wide variety of contemporary art in dialogue with the Queen City. As a major supporter of arts and culture across the region, Bank of America led the planning, collaboration, and funding of *In Focus/Enfoque*.

An opening reception with the artists will take place on Thursday, September 14 from 6-10 PM at LaCa Projects. The press is invited to an exclusive, private tour of the exhibition one hour prior to the opening reception, at 5 PM. RSVP to neely@lacaprojects.com.

For inquiries, please contact info@lacaprojects.com

Alejandra Laviada (b. 1980) lives and works in Mexico City. She completed her BFA in Painting at the Rhode Island School of Design and received an MFA in Photography from the School of Visual Arts in New York. She is a member of the photography collective POC (www.pocproject.com). In 2010, Alejandra won the Photography Biennial in Mexico City, and in 2009 was awarded Photo España's *Descubrimientos* Prize for her Photo Sculpture series. She is a recipient of FONCA Young Creators grant for 2012-13. Her work has been exhibited widely, and has been shown in various photography festivals including: Hyeres, The New York Photo Festival, Photo España, and Guatephoto among others.

Humberto Rios (b. 1983) received his Master Visual Arts degree from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, along with honors for a project he created in the National Museum of Art during his tenure. He also attended the Seminar of Contemporary Photography in the Centro de la Imagen in Mexico City. Ríos has been featured in exhibitions across the world, including the Center Cultural Chaco in Caracas, the Centro de la Imagen in México and the Museum of Modern Art of the State of México. He has also amassed numerous prizes and awards for his work, notably the Latin American Photography Award Purificación García in Zona Maco (2016) and the acquisition prize of the XXXI Encuentro Nacional de Arte Joven of National Institute of Fine Arts (2011). His *Tránsito* series, featured in *In Focus/Enfoque*, was part of the 14th Encuentro Nacional de Fototecas organized by the Sistema Nacional de Fototecas in Mexico (2013), as well as in the Photographic Museum of Humanity (2013). His works are part of private and public collections in Mexico, Spain, and the United States.

Karina Juárez (b. 1987) is currently enrolled at the Universidad Autónoma de México (UNAM) as an art history major, and also leads *Errante Laboratorio*, a virtual space of investigation and diffusion of contemporary photographers. She has received training at the Manuel Álvarez Bravo Photographic center and the San Agustín Arts Center (CaSA), and was a fellow in the Young Creators of the National Fund for Culture and Arts (FONCA) in photography in the 2011 and 2014 editions. She has received a number of honors and inclusions, including honorific mention in the Contest of Contemporary Photography of Mexico (2012) and the Eight Biennial Puebla de los Ángeles 2011. Her work has been featured in numerous collective and solo exhibitions in Mexico, Belgium, Brazil, Ecuador, Spain, Germany, Honduras, and France.

About LaCa Projects

Established in 2013, Latin American Contemporary Art (LaCa) Projects has locations in both Charlotte and Buenos Aires. Our mission is to use this unique combination of settings to create a gateway for connecting contemporary Latin American artists with the increasingly diversifying arts scene of Charlotte, as well as to provide a location in the Southeast region of the United States for art collectors to develop and foster an appreciation for the visually striking narrative of contemporary Latin American art.

This cross-cultural dialogue is particularly important for Charlotte, a city that has already established itself as the second largest financial capital in the United States. The city's accompanying rising status as a cosmopolitan and multinational urban center uniquely positions LaCa Projects to serve as an influential local supporter of global culture, as well as a strong contributor to the arts at a national and international level.

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Images (from top):

San Ángel, Ciudad de México (2014)
Suspending Time Series
Humberto Ríos

Insomnia (2012)
Acciones Para Recordar Series
Karina Juárez

Bird in Space (2014)
Alejandra Laviada