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*The Newspaper for Oklahoma's Trendsetters*

## Exhibit At Oklahoma Contemporary Shows Parallels Between Guadalajara, OKC

Fri, Sep 02, 2022



**Gonzalo Lebrija, "Breve historia del tiempo," 2020.  
Installed in Oklahoma Contemporary's Campbell Art Park  
as part of "La casa que nos inventamos: Contemporary  
Art From Guadalajara." - Photo by Ann Sherman**

Opening across Oklahoma Contemporary's campus on Sept. 23, "La casa que nos inventamos: Contemporary Art From Guadalajara" provides an opportunity to consider how, since the 2000s, one city in Mexico has built upon its rich cultural history as the

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capital of the state of Jalisco to become a leading hub of contemporary architecture, design, cuisine, literature and visual art.

In recent decades, the social and economic impact of culturally dynamic communities has been widely recognized, Oklahoma Contemporary Director Jeremiah Matthew Davis said. The exhibition "La casa que nos inventamos," which translates to "The house that we invented," reflects on and responds to place — to the rich and complicated history, present and future of a creative community.

Guest curated by Viviana Kuri, director and chief curator of the Museo de Arte de Zapopan (MAZ), the exhibition features nearly 50 conceptual artworks — paintings, sculptures, installations, performances — created within the last decade by 19 visual artists from or living in Guadalajara. Featured in the survey are works by figures who rose to international prominence in the 2000s — Gonzalo Lebrija, Jose Dávila, Eduardo Sarabia, Francisco Ugarte — as well as by a generation of artists — Isa Carillo, Larissa Garza, Renata Petersen — who have gained greater attention in recent years.

"After years of research, dialogue and exchange with the artists, galleries, institutions and collectors of Guadalajara, we're thrilled to welcome this special group of artists to Oklahoma," Davis said.

Through focusing on one dynamic art scene across platforms, "La casa que nos inventamos" provides a moment to consider the many factors — strong art museums and schools, generous supporters and galleries, plentiful studios and collective spaces — that together make a city's creative community distinctive, resilient and enduring. "We believe this exhibition and its related programs will uncover some unexpected parallels between the communities of Guadalajara and Oklahoma City," Davis says. "For anyone who has ever wondered how an arts scene grows from tender seeds to a thriving ecosystem, this show is a must-see."

The exhibition launches concurrently with Oklahoma Contemporary's Open House, Sept. 23-24, a curated weekend filled with one-of-a-kind arts experiences, including performances from and talks with "La casa" artists, tours, art-making, music, a car parade and more. The free festivities reflect some of the pomp and circumstance originally planned for the arts center's grand opening, which was canceled in March 2020 because of the pandemic.

Dubbed Open House to mirror "La casa que nos inventamos," the weekend is to welcome the public not only its new facilities, but also to the messages within the blockbuster Guadalajara show.

"This beautiful, immersive exhibition dives deep into an exciting scene in Mexico, and prompts vital questions: What makes for a fertile creative community? What defines the cultural language of a city?" said Kate Green, guest director of curatorial affairs at Oklahoma Contemporary. "As the title suggests, the answers lie within the artworks, artists and dynamic city — in the beautiful house they have together invented.

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"Through over 40 works — massive outdoor sculptures, a sprawling colorful mural, quiet paintings, a luminous video, lively performance — by nearly 20 emerging and mid-career artists, the exhibition transforms Oklahoma Contemporary inside and out."

Oklahoma Contemporary's connection to Guadalajara dates back to 2014, as the organization planned the first of four solo exhibitions at its temporary experimental arts space, Marfa Contemporary, in Texas. After collaborating with Lebrija, Dávila, Ugarte and Méndez Blake, Davis and founder and board chairman Christian Keese traveled to Guadalajara to learn more about the city's arts scene and creative community.

Those years of research and relationship building are reaping rewards, Green said. "La casa que nos inventamos: Contemporary Art From Guadalajara' is an extraordinary opportunity to experience and learn from one of the most vibrant hubs of contemporary art in the Americas."

The exhibition is on view Sept. 23-Jan. 9, 2023.