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Co-Prosperity presents: *Entre ritos y portales*

December 6, 2024 - January 17, 2025

CHICAGO (November 26, 2024)— **Co-Prosperity**, the experimental cultural center located in Bridgeport, presents ***Entre ritos y portales*** (*Amidst rites and portals*), an immersive exhibition that combines ceramics, paintings, objects, performative actions, and site-specific installations exploring embodied artistic practices inspired by nature.

Encouraging a deeper reflection on our relationship with the environment **Sebastián Bruno-Harris, Gabriela Estrada, Sofía Fernández Díaz, Mariana Noreña, Frank Vega, Kushala Vora, and Irene Wa** invite the viewers to engage in a collective journey back to the origins of life.

By presenting work created specifically for this exhibition or in relation with new pieces, the artists explore the intersection of visual art and performativity, with the body at the heart of the creative process and the viewer's experience.

Whether through action, movement, or creation itself, the artists draw inspiration from the body, infusing their work with an embodied presence that evolves with every interaction.

Embracing ephemerality, they reflect on the remnants of our existence: what lingers after we are gone; meditating on the impermanence of both art and life itself, inviting us to return to the seed, the womb; and unlearn the systems that have disconnected us from nature and each other.

The exhibition will be on view from **December 6, 2024 to January 17, 2025**. The opening reception will take place on December 6 from 6:00 to 9:00pm at Co-Prosperity, located at **3219 S Morgan Street**. During this celebration, **Gabriela Estrada, Frank Vega and Irene Wa.** will be premiering performances never seen before. On **January 17**, for the closing reception happening at the same time, there will be another set of new performances by **Mariana Noreña, Sebastián Bruno-Harris and Kushala Vora** in collaboration with other artists.

Entre ritos y portales was curated by Sofía Gabriel in conversation with the artists, with the support of [Independent Curators International \(ICI\)](#) and Pablo Lazala, as Installation Manager.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Sebastian Bruno-Harris is a visual artist who makes mixed-media sculptures and assemblages out of everyday objects and materials. Born in Puerto Rico and raised between Buenos Aires and South Florida, Sebastian studied sculpture at Florida Atlantic University earning his BFA in 2016 and his MFA in 2023 at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in the Film, Video, New Media, and Animation department. Sebastian's work has been exhibited in Florida at the Ritter Art Gallery, Boca Raton; Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, Lake Worth; Fritz Gallery, West Palm Beach; and FATVillage Projects, Ft. Lauderdale. He has exhibited nationally at Leidy Gallery at Fred Lazarus IV Center, Baltimore, MD; Clutch Gallery, Chicago; and Chicago Art Department. Sebastian was a year-long artist-in-residence at Chicago Art Department from 2020 to 2021. He is currently based in Chicago, IL.

Gabriela Estrada Loochkartt is a Colombian artist born in the Andean mountains who lives in Chicago. She graduated from the Art Department of the University of the Andes (2020), and her project, *Mi Casa es tu Casa*, was honored with a Meritorious undergraduate Thesis degree. Gabriela received funding from the Research and Creation Center of the University of the Andes for the development of her thesis project. She is currently pursuing her Master's degree at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in the Fibers and Materials department, from whom she received the New Artist Society Award scholarship. Her work was part of the X International Biennial of Contemporary Textile Art WTA (2022). She participated in the group exhibition *Tasting the World with Your Mouth without being stung by thorns* at the Casa Diego Rivera Museum (2023, Guanajuato, Mexico). Her solo exhibitions *The Word House Has Two Roofs* (2021), *Conversations with the Earth* (2022), and *Womb Earth* (2023) took place at Policroma Gallery (Medellín), La Cometa Gallery (Bogotá) and SGR Gallery (Bogotá). Emiliano Valdés selected her to be part of the curatorship before everything turns into dust during the ARTBO international fair in the ArteCámara section (2020). She was invited to be part of the group exhibition *What is knitted and embroidered in times of pandemic* at the Tertulia Museum in Cali (2020).

Sofía Fernández Díaz is an interdisciplinary artist and educator from Mexico City searching for the hidden relationships between everything around us. Her process is fueled by an intimate knowledge of both ancient and modern processes, combining experimentation, intuition, and play to discover unexpected commonalities between unrelated materials. Her familiarity with naturally occurring patterns and formations allows her to recreate these systems in her work using beeswax, fibers, natural dyes and many other materials to form immediate, visceral connections. Over the past decade, Sofía has engaged in fruitful exchanges with artisans across Mexico, honoring their processes and daily rituals that have deeply impacted the way she lives her life. She is a lecturer at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago where she teaches Intro to Fiber and Material Studies and a Resident and teaching artist at Lillstreet Art Center. Last year, her first solo exhibition in Chicago —“*y luego bailaron*” was held at Goldfinch Gallery. In 2024, she will be exhibiting in two local group shows at Chicago Art Department and Co-Prosperity. Internationally, her work was recently featured by Mexico City/Berlin gallery Lagos at the Volta Art Fair in Switzerland and attended a month-long residency with Proyecto ACE in Buenos Aires to create *Ciclos Dos*, the second installation of an ongoing collaborative project with performance artist Sofia Gabriel.

Mariana Noreña is a multidisciplinary artist from Bogotá, Colombia, currently living in Chicago, IL, whose work explores places, landscapes, and natural phenomena through earth matter and materials that speak of past, present, and intimate stories. Her sculpture-based installations expose these stories by creating an echo of time, observation, and research.

Mariana holds dual bachelor's degrees in Design and Fine Arts with an emphasis in Painting and Drawing from La Universidad de Los Andes (Bogotá, Colombia), for which she received a merit distinction on her thesis project "You Were Here" which explored the landscape of the body through alternative portraiture. She holds a Master of Fine Arts in the Fiber and Material Studies from the School of Art Institute of Chicago. Mariana's latest solo exhibition was in Murmuration "Territorio Ceniza" in Chicago, She as also exhibited in Garage 04 "Instructions for a walk" in Karlsruhe, Germany, and at Universidad Nacional Autónoma De México in Chicago "Reflections of Place."

Kushala Vora is a visual artist and organizer working in sculpture, drawing and installation. She was award the 2024 Jyotsna Bhatt Ceramics awards and was named one of Chicago's 2023 Newcity Breakout Artists . Her work has been exhibited at American Museum of Ceramic Art (Sonoma, CA), Indian Ceramics Triennale 2024 (New Delhi, India), Engage Projects (Chicago, IL) Goodman Theatre (Chicago, IL), Museum of Fine Arts (Nagoya, Japan), South Asia Institute (Chicago, IL), Harvard University (Cambridge, MA) among other places. She has been an artist in residence at Skowhegan School of Painting and Drawing, Hyde Park Art Center, Anderson Ranch Art Center, Chicago Artist Coalition, ACRE Residency and mostly recently at Shillim Institute (India). She received her MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She holds a post-graduate diploma in Modern and Contemporary Indian Art History and Curatorial Studies from Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum in Mumbai, India and a BFA from Tufts University/ SMFA, Boston. She is the co-founder of Atmo - a reading + praxis forum and is an active contributor to Spaceshift Collective.

Frank Vega (b. 1992, Ecuador) is a transdisciplinary artist working with sculpture, painting, installations, and performance often using repurposed materials to explore local economies. His practice focuses on the explorations of histories through cultural traditions, object ontology, and quotidian technologies. He received his Master of Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Vega has exhibited internationally at No Lugar (Ecuador), El Lobi (Puerto Rico), Koik Contemporary (Mexico City) and nationally at Hyde Park Art Center (Chicago), Devening Project (Chicago), The Green Gallery (Milwaukee), and the Krannert Art Museum (Champaign). He has been awarded a Teaching Fellowship and the Frankenthaler Scholarship from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, as well as the Florence M.

House Scholarship and the Helen E. Platt Blake Scholarship from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Irene Wa. is an interdisciplinary artist working with drawing, painting, ceramics, video, and writing. Recently, I completed an artist residency at R.A.R.O Buenos Aires and had the opportunity to exhibit at “Lo que muta, vive,” a show curated by Tania Puente, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Her work has been displayed in various collective shows in Mexico, the USA, and Peru, as well as in multiple solo shows in Chicago and Mexico City. In 2023, she held her most recent solo exhibition, “Crisálida de sal/ Chrysalis of salt,” at Goldfinch Gallery, Chicago. Irene Wa. holds a Master's in Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design from Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City. Currently, she works as a teacher and graphic designer in Mexico City. Moving between creative disciplines, teaching, and traveling is important for both her artistic practice and personal happiness.

ABOUT CO-PROSPERITY

Co-Prosperity (Co-Pro) is an experimental cultural center located in Bridgeport, Chicago. Co-Pro hosts exhibitions, screenings, installations, gatherings, and performance programs in its 2,600+ square foot gallery. The space hosts ten to twelve exhibitions and various programs annually .

For more information, please visit <https://coprosperity.org>

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Photo credit:

Mariana Noreña, *The House That Lives Within Me / La Casa Que Habita Dentro De Mi Steel*, water from Lake Michigan, wood, soil from Bogotá, soil from Chicago, corn husks, rosemary, recycled paper, basket reed, bent wood, sound, frame. 2023. Image courtesy of the artist