

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Friday, April 27, 2018

## Rafael Cardenas: Backyard Tableaux

April 27, 2018 – July 28, 2018



**(MONTEREY PARK, CA)** – The Vincent Price Art Museum (VPAM) at East Los Angeles College presents *Rafael Cardenas: Backyard Tableaux*, the photographer's first solo museum exhibition in Los Angeles. Cardenas, known for his compelling street photography, presents a selection of new works capturing backyard scenes across East LA.

Widely recognized for his black and white photographs representing a cross section of urban life, *Backyard Tableaux* features vivid color images that offer intimate moments in private, yet social spaces. At once celebratory and documentary, the photographs in this exhibition offer a window into scenes that reveal stories of the contemporary Angeleno experience.

Spanning images that range from *tableaux vivants*, portraits and still lifes, *Backyard Tableaux* presents vignettes of backyard scenes and the people that activate them. These dynamic compositions hone in on nuanced details, such as a quick portrait before a music set, or the aftermath of a swing at a piñata. Collectively, these images engage in storytelling of the moment, offering insights to both people and place.

"We are delighted to showcase new works by Rafael Cardenas," said VPAM director Pilar Tompkins Rivas. "His work as an artist and educator foregrounds communities across the Eastside of Los Angeles—the very same communities that we seek to serve here at East Los Angeles College."

### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Rafael Cardenas was born in Jalisco, Mexico and raised in East Los Angeles. His work has been presented in solo exhibitions at Eastside Luv and Espacio 1839, and in group exhibitions at Avenue 50 Studio, La Bodega Gallery, Self Help Graphics & Art, and the Vincent Price Art Museum. Cardenas is a self-taught photographer who has been practicing since 2010. His self-published book, *MAS ACA: Further Here*, debuted in 2016.

### **RELATED PROGRAMS**

#### **OPENING RECEPTION**

Saturday, April 27, 2018  
5:00 – 7:00 pm

#### **UPRISING OUTCASTS: AN EAST SIDE PERSPECTIVE**

Thursday, May 24, 2018  
4:00 – 6:00 pm

Photographer Rafael Cardenas will co-lead a workshop series with instructors from LA CAUSA Youthbuild, an organization in East Los Angeles that offers youth ages 16–24 the opportunity to earn their high school diplomas. Inspired by *Rafael Cardenas: Backyard Tableaux* and *Mariana Yampolsky: Photographs from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)*, both on view at the Vincent Price Art Museum, participants will be encouraged to explore issues that impact them and their communities. The project will result in a group exhibition on view at the museum through June 2, 2018.

#### **APPROACHING THE EVERYDAY: RAFAEL CARDENAS, MARIANA YAMPOLSKY, AND PHOTOGRAPHY**

Thursday, June 28, 2018  
6:00 – 7:00 pm

Join photographer Rafael Cardenas in conversation with LACMA curator Eve Schillo as they discuss the parallels between works by Cardenas and Mariana Yampolsky.

#### **CLOSING PROGRAM: WALK-THROUGH WITH RAFAEL CARDENAS AND CAROLINA A. MIRANDA**

Thursday, July 28, 2018  
2:00 – 3:00 pm

Join photographer Rafael Cardenas and arts and culture writer Carolina A. Miranda for a walk-through the exhibition *Rafael Cardenas: Backyard Tableaux*. This special event with the artist will be the final opportunity to view the exhibition.



### **ABOUT THE VINCENT PRICE ART MUSEUM**

The mission of the Vincent Price Art Museum at East Los Angeles College is to serve as a unique educational resource for the diverse audiences of the college and the community through the exhibition, interpretation, collection, and preservation of works in all media of the visual arts. VPAM provides an environment to encounter a range of aesthetic expressions that illuminate the depth and diversity of artwork produced by people of the world, both contemporary and past. By presenting thoughtful, innovative and culturally diverse exhibitions and by organizing cross-disciplinary programs on issues of historical, social, and cultural relevance, VPAM seeks to promote knowledge, inspire creative thinking, and deepen an understanding of and appreciation for the visual arts.

### **VISITOR INFORMATION**

Admission to all exhibitions and programs at the Vincent Price Art Museum is free. Hours: Tuesday–Saturday 12:00pm–4:00pm, with extended hours on Thursday until 7:00pm. Closed Sundays and Mondays and national holidays. Vincent Price Art Museum, 1301 Avenida Cesar Chavez, Monterey Park, CA 91754–6099. Onsite parking \$2 in the structure located at Collegian Avenue and Floral Drive.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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### **WEBSITE**

[vincentpriceartmuseum.org](http://vincentpriceartmuseum.org)

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Page 1 image credit: Rafael Cardenas, *Backyard Tableau 2*, 2016, printed 2018, Chromogenic print mounted on PlexiFlex, 24 x 36 inches. Courtesy of the artist.

See more works by Rafael Cardenas on his website at [www.rafa.LA](http://www.rafa.LA)