

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact:

Emma Jacobson-Sive, 323-842-2064

emma@ejs-media.com

Stacey Ravel Abarbanel, 310-736-5300

srabarbanel@gmail.com

UCR ARTS TO DEBUT *CHRISTINA FERNANDEZ: MULTIPLE EXPOSURES***FIRST MAJOR SURVEY OF INFLUENTIAL ARTIST WILL TRAVEL TO FIVE U.S. VENUES**

(Riverside, CA) — UCR ARTS presents the premiere of *Christina Fernandez: Multiple Exposures*, the first extensive survey of work by the Los Angeles-based artist who has spent decades in a rich exploration of migration, labor, gender, her Mexican American identity, and the unique capacities of the photographic medium itself. The exhibition will be on view at UCR ARTS's California Museum of Photography from September 10, 2022–February 5, 2023. An opening reception will take place on October 1, 2022 from 6–9 p.m.

Fernandez is an artist and educator acclaimed for photographs that examine her connections to her native Los Angeles, the intersections between public and private spaces, personal and historical narratives, exurban and urban spaces, and the cultural border and historical relationships between Mexico and the United States. “Christina’s photography has been well-known throughout her long career, especially by its inclusion in major group exhibitions such as LACMA’s *Phantom Sightings* and the Smithsonian’s *Our America*,” says exhibition curator Joanna Szupinska. “In this pivotal moment, we’re happy to present this major solo exhibition that firmly centers her work amidst the complex relationship between postmodern art and the Chicano movement.”

The works in this exhibition span thirty years, bringing together Fernandez’s most important series and illuminating the formal and conceptual threads that connect them. In this comprehensive solo exhibition, Fernandez’s images compel viewers to reconsider history, the border, and the real lives that cross and inhabit them.

“Christina’s photography powerfully engages that which has been written out of history or rendered invisible in day-to-day life,” says curatorial advisor Chon Noriega. “She does this not by offering a compensatory image, but by returning the viewer to the act of seeing itself. We see domestic spaces and work sites, but no people; or we encounter centuries of silenced histories in the form of the artist’s own body.”

The exhibition is organized in four sections. It commences with the project *María’s Great Expedition* (1995–96), an installation that chronicles key moments in the life of the artist’s maternal great-grandmother, María Gonzales. The artist poses as the subject in photographs that mimic the history of photography: from Hollywood glamor, to American Depression-era documentary, to the color snapshot.

The second section features Fernandez’s most recognizable series, *Lavanderia* (2002–3), consisting of carefully composed color night views into laundromats on Los Angeles’s Eastside. All ten photographs from this iconic series are being displayed together for the first time. These cinematic compositions are paired with the black-and-white works that inspired the title of the exhibition, *Untitled Multiple Exposures* (1999).

The third section of the exhibition features the artist’s most recent body of work, *View from Here* (2017–19), a series of windows documented in the homes of various creative people, including photographers Laura Aguilar (1959–2018) and Tōyō Miyatake (1895–1979), and sculptor Noah Purifoy (1917–2004).

A final section presents photographs from *Sereno* (2006–10), a series created during the years when Fernandez was the mother of a young child. During this time she evolved her artmaking into a peripatetic practice, making photographs with a medium-format camera during daily walks with her son around El Sereno—their predominantly Latinx neighborhood—with the baby strapped to her in a carrier. The exhibition concludes with *American Trailer* (2018), a reflection on life in the Trump era.

Credits

Christina Fernandez: Multiple Exposures is organized by UCR ARTS and is curated by Joanna Szupinska, Senior Curator at the California Museum of Photography. Chon A. Noriega, Distinguished Professor of Film, Television, and Digital Media at UCLA, is curatorial advisor. After the presentation at UCR ARTS, the exhibition will travel to the Amon Carter Center of American Art, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Princeton University Art Museum, San José Museum of Art, and DePaul Art Museum.

Christina Fernandez: Multiple Exposures was made possible by grants from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Support for the accompanying publication was provided by AltaMed Health Services, Fundación Jumex Arte Contemporáneo, and Furthermore: a program of the J.M. Kaplan Fund. Programs at UCR ARTS are supported by the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences at UCR, and the City of Riverside.

Catalogue

The catalogue *Christina Fernandez: Multiple Exposures* (240 pages, 180 black-and-white and color illustrations, 10.25 x 12 inches, hardcover ISBN: 9780895512017, LCCN: 2022002742, \$50) is copublished by UCR ARTS and UCLA's Chicano Studies Research Center (CSRC), edited by Rebecca Epstein, CSRC assistant director, designed by Henk van Assen, HvADesign, New York, and distributed by University of Washington Press. Contributors include Cecilia Fajardo-Hill, independent art historian and curator; Julian Myers, independent art historian; Chon A. Noriega, distinguished professor of film, television, and digital media at UCLA; Sally Stein, professor emerita, Department of Art History, University of California, Irvine; Joanna Szupinska, senior curator at the California Museum of Photography at UCR ARTS; Roberto Tejada, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen distinguished professor of English at the University of Houston, and Susanna V. Temkin, curator at El Museo del Barrio.

Related Exhibitions

Concurrent to *Christina Fernandez: Multiple Exposures*, the artist is curating two exhibitions in Southern California. They are:

[Tierra Entre Medio](#)

Barbara and Art Culver Center of the Arts, UCR ARTS
September 11, 2022–April 2, 2023

Tierra Entre Medio is a multi-generational exhibition that foregrounds Chicana photographers working in Southern California. It features new works by Christina Fernandez installed alongside works by Arlene Mejorado, Lizette Olivas, and Aydinaneth Ortiz. Organized by Fernandez, the exhibition bridges myriad concerns inherent to her own work, highlighting practices that consider the regional, cultural, and topographical diversities that span Southern California Latinx communities. Beyond demonstrating the socio-cultural and physical nuances of landscapes between the border and inland Southern California, the exhibition will provide a framework through which to consider how environments shape the perspectives and experiences of working class, migrant, and diasporic communities.

[Christina Fernandez: Under the Sun](#)

Benton Museum of Art at Pomona College

120 W. Bonita Avenue, Claremont

August 23–December 18, 2022

Photography-based installations by Fernandez dealing with labor, land, and light are placed in dialogue with objects the artist selected from the Benton's collection.

Related Events

[Public Reception, UCR ARTS](#)

Saturday, October 1, 2022 | 6–9 p.m.

Free and open to the public

[Gallery Tours with Christina Fernandez](#)

Saturday, December 3, 2022

UCR ARTS | 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Benton Museum | 2 p.m.

Free and open to the public

Registration opens July 5, 2022

About Christina Fernandez

Fernandez was born in Los Angeles in 1965. She earned her BA at the University of California at Los Angeles in 1989 and her MFA at the California Institute of the Arts in 1996. Since 2000 she has taught at Cerritos College, a majority Latinx community college, where she is an associate professor and was chair of the art department in 2017–2020.

Fernandez's projects have been featured in major exhibitions including *Home—So Different, So Appealing* (Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 2017), *Phantom Sightings: Art After the Chicano Movement* (LACMA, 2008), *East of the River: Chicano Art Collectors Anonymous* (Santa Monica Museum of Art, 2000), *Flight Patterns* (Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, 2000), and *InSite* (San Diego and Tijuana, 1997). Her work has also been exhibited at The Getty Center, Los Angeles; Smithsonian Museum of American Art, Washington, D.C.; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Bronx Museum, New York; El Paso Museum of Art, Texas; Palm Springs Art Museum; Self Help Graphics, Los Angeles; and Galería de la Raza, San Francisco, among elsewhere. *Christina Fernandez: Multiple Exposures* is the first major monographic museum exhibition of her work.

About UCR ARTS

UCR ARTS opened to the public in 2010, bringing together the California Museum of Photography (founded in 1973), the Jack and Marilyn Sweeney Art Gallery (1963), and the Barbara & Art Culver Center of the Arts (2010). Located three miles from UCR's main campus, UCR ARTS is housed on a single block in adjacent historical buildings in downtown Riverside.

UCR ARTS advances the understanding and appreciation of the arts through extraordinary experiences in contemporary visual and performing art and photography and photographic technologies, past and present. Presenting major exhibitions, artist projects, performances and community programs, and independent and foreign language films, UCR ARTS engages both global and regional audiences.

The extensive art, photography, and research collections of the California Museum of Photography and the Jack and Marilyn Sweeney Art Gallery make UCR ARTS an important destination for audiences as well as researchers working in a wide range of fields. ucrarts.ucr.edu

Visitor Information

Admission to UCR ARTS is free, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors Altura Credit Union and Anheuser-Busch. Advanced reservations are encouraged and can be [made online](#). Email ucrarts@ucr.edu with questions or for additional assistance.

To ensure a safe and enjoyable experience, safety guidelines are listed below. (These guidelines were updated on 4/12/22. For up-to-date information, please visit our website before your visit.)

- Face masks are strongly recommended while indoors for those who are up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations, including any eligible booster doses, and are required for anyone who is not up to date on vaccinations.
- Feel free to use hand sanitizing stations and wash hands as necessary.
- As always, large bags, food, and drink are not permitted in the museum and theater.

An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public space where people are present. We cannot guarantee you will not be exposed to COVID-19 during your visit. Those visiting UCR ARTS do so at their own risk of such exposure.

Hours & Directions

Hours: Thursday and Friday 12–5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Closed Monday-Wednesday.

UCR ARTS, including the California Museum of Photography and the Culver Center of the Arts, is located at 3824 + 3834 Main Street in downtown Riverside, California. Paid parking is available at several nearby lots.

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Image:

Christina Fernandez, Lavanderia #1, 2002. From the series Lavanderia. Courtesy of the artist and Gallery Luisotti, Los Angeles.