



Contemporary Art El Salvador

2019 IMPACT REPORT

2019



2019 was an unprecedented year for Y.ES Contemporary. We proudly launched the Y.ES Contemporary Art Loan Program including two traveling exhibitions originated by Y.ES's team- *Black Mirror: And Other Third World Reflections* and *Borders of Freedom*.

We solidified our programs to deepen and expand our reach, maintained and began new invaluable partnerships, and worked with select museums to acquire Salvadoran artists' work for their permanent collections. In addition, Y.ES Contemporary introduced an online curators network, inaugurated a curator's grant and celebrated our 5-year anniversary with the first SuperYES Awards designed by our longtime artist collaborator Walterio Iraheta.

In this Impact Report we not only share our program achievements, but also show the successes of the artists, curators, Y.ES Contemporary alumni and partners with whom we work.

19 years ago, when Robert Wennett and I first began working with contemporary artists from El Salvador, it was our dream to see Salvadoran artists integrated within the world's contemporary art movements. With the help of our many collaborators this is only the beginning.

Y.ES Contemporary is on trajectory of multiplying our impact. In our 5th year we could not be more motivated.

Just Say Y.ES

MARIO CADER-FRECH
Y.ES Contemporary Founder

Y.ES Contemporary Art Trips

SEPTEMBER 6-10, 2019

4 GUESTS



ANA TOMÉ

Director of the Fundación Museo Reina Sofía.

-Returned for a second trip with colleagues from the Reina Sofia Museum and Bank of Spain colleagues.



KATHRYN WEIR

Curator and writer / Head of Cultural Development at the Centre Georges Pompidou.

- **Simón Vega** exhibited in *Cosmopolis #2: rethinking the human*

- Partnered with **Carolina Alvarez-Mathies** with Ceres Estates and Ron Cihuatán to provide outstanding Salvadoran coffee and rum for the exhibition.



BRYAN BARCENA

Assistant Curator and Manager of Publications, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.

- Major donation of MoCA books to **Y.ES Contemporary Art Library**



NATASHA EGAN

Executive Director, Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College Chicago (MoCP).

- Included the work of **José Orlando Villatoro** in the exhibition *In Real Life*

- MoCP acquired artwork by **Abigail Reyes, Crack Rodríguez, Javier Ramirez, Melissa Guevara**

Visited:

28 ARTISTS 12 CULTURAL VENUES AND STUDIOS

Natasha Egan shares:

“The Y.ES Contemporary Art Trip was very inspiring. Having known very little about contemporary Salvadoran artists before the trip, I now have a strong foundation to work with. Y.ES Contemporary introduced me to Jose Orlando Villatoro and I’m very much looking forward to exhibiting his work at the Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago in January 2020.”

DECEMBER 8-10, 2019



4 GUESTS

MANUEL BORJA-VILLET
Director of the Reina Sofia Museum

ANA TOMÉ
Director of the Reina Sofia Museum Foundation

TERESA VELÁZQUEZ
Head of Exhibitions at the Reina Sofia Museum

YOLANDA ROMERO
Conservation Director of the Bank of Spain Art Collection

Visited:

+15 ARTISTS

9 ART SPACES AND STUDIOS

YES thanks art trip partners and hosts: Crowne Plaza Conference Center, Maria Marta de Regalado, Alexandra Regalado, Ana Vilma Soler, Carolina Alvarez-Mathies, Spanish Cultural Center, Museum of Art of El Salvador, Museum of Anthropology, La Única Gallery, The Fire Theory studio.

Art Trip Alumni Outcomes in 2019



LUISA FUENTES GUAZA

Independent researcher and curator. Visited El Salvador in 2016.
- Published the article "**Emancipation without asking Permission: Prudencia Ayala**" on Colección Cisneros website.

JOSSELINE PINTO

Curator at Manifiesto Espacio. Educational Curator and Head of Researcher Department at FUNBA Guatemala. Visited El Salvador in 2017.
- In April Josseline published an essay on **Ernesto Bautista's** artwork in esQuisses.net
- In July **Ernesto Bautista** invited Josseline to be a part of the seminar "*Producción dentro de sistemas de conflicto y economía de la amistad*" at Flora ars+natura in Bogotá.
- In August Josseline curated **Ernesto Bautista's** exhibition "*Un vacío infinito llenándose con la memoria*" at the Valenzuela-Klenner Gallery in Bogotá, Colombia.
- In November **Ernesto Bautista** and Josseline met in Guatemala and began working on his next exhibition at the Museum of Art of El Salvador (MARTE) opening on April 30, 2020.
- Josseline wrote the exhibition text for **Albertine Stahl's** Project Room exhibition at Galería Extra in Guatemala City.



NAZY NAZHAND

Independent curator. Visited El Salvador in 2017.
- Visited **Abigail Reyes** during her residency in NYC.



SANDINO SCHEIDEGGER

Curator at Despacio Costa Rica; Co-founder of Random Institute, Switzerland; Réunion, Zurich; Kunsthalle Tropical, Iceland. Visited El Salvador in 2016.
Visited **Melissa Guevara** at Flora Ars + Natura artist residency, Bogota.



JAIME CERÓN

Curator and critic at the District Institute of the Arts, Bogota, Colombia. Visited El Salvador in 2016.
- Visited **The Fire Theory** Studio in Bogotá.

Y.ES Contemporary Art Loan Program



Y.ES TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS

Black Mirror: And Other Third World Reflections

Curated by Claire Breuke. Florida Atlantic University Galleries. February 14 – April 6, 2019.

Borders of Freedom

Curated by Patricio Majano
Spanish Cultural Center, September 6
Locust Projects, Miami, September 14- October 16. See 2020 exhibition dates at yescontemporary.org/loan

50 PAGE CATALOGUE

6 ARTISTS / 7 VIDEOS

15 ARTISTS / 21 ARTWORKS

LOANS TO EXHIBITIONS

OCT 19 AND NOV 30

Miami Media Festival
Laundromat Art Space
and Doral Contemporary
Art Museum
Featuring video works
by **Abigail Reyes,**
Guadalupe Maravilla,
Verónica Vides

OCT 1-31

Florida Atlantic University
library program
Featuring video work by
Verónica Vides

SEP-FEB 2020

Inter-American
Development Bank Cul-
tural Center, Washington
D.C.
Single-Use Planet
featuring **Simón Vega's**
Gemini Dúplex Chanti
Capsule

See yescontemporary.org/loan for more information on loaning artwork.
The Y.ES Contemporary Art Loan Program is made possible thanks to
The Mario Cader-Frech Collection

Artist Academy

CRITICALITY IN ARTS WRITING

4 arts writers participated in 2 symposiums and were commissioned to write a final article to be published in 2020.



DALIA CHÉVEZ



EUGENIA GUARDADO



JAIME IZAGUIRRE



EDUARDO CRESPIÓN

Presentations by



BRYAN BARCENA



ALEXIA TALA

Led by Y.ES Council member and scholar



GABRIELA POMA

Y.ES thanks partners National Theater San Salvador, Impact Hub San Salvador

Talks

9 TALKS

13 DIFFERENT PANELISTS



AUGUST 31

Artist talk Florida Atlantic University.
Crack Rodríguez.



FEBRUARY 14

Artist talk Florida Atlantic University.
Beatriz Cortez.



FEBRUARY 14

Panel Conversation for *Black Mirror: And Other Third World Reflections* exhibition, Florida Atlantic University.
Mario Cader-Frech, Beatriz Cortez, Claire Breukel.



FEBRUARY 25

The importance of critical writing for contemporary art in Central America at Club Matador during ARCO Madrid Art Fair, Spain. **Fredy Solan, Tamara Díaz Bringas, Luisa Fuentes Guaza**, moderated by **Mario Cader-Frech.**



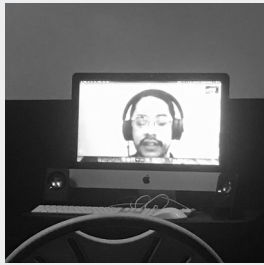
MARCH 1

More Than Collecting: alternative methodologies for investing in art at ARCO Madrid Art Fair, Spain. **Dani Levinas, Pablo Martínez, Mario Cader-Frech.** Partners: ArcoMadrid, Phillips Collection, Colección Solo.



MARCH 20

Guest speaker **Rocío Aranda-Alvarado** lectures on *The New Latinx: Art in the Age of Migration* in context of the exhibition *Black Mirror: And Other Third World Reflections* at Florida Atlantic University, Miami.



OCTOBER 2

Conversation for *Borders of Freedom* exhibition at Locust Projects, Miami. **Patricio Majano, Claire Breukel, Carolina Alvarez-Mathies.**

TALK COLLABORATIONS



SEPTEMBER 25

Claire Breukel and Patricio Majano in Plop Curatorial Symposium at the University of El Salvador. September 25.



DECEMBER 9

Reina Sofia Museum director **Manuel Borja Vilel** presented the talk *A Situated Museum* at the Cultural Center of Spain in El Salvador.

Grants

ART WRITERS GRANT



REYES RAMIREZ was selected as the winner of the 2019 Y.ES Arts Writers Grant in collaboration with **ARTEINFORMADO**. Ramirez's article *The Exhibition as Record: Moe Penders' Volver & Reconciliation* addresses a series of artwork by Salvadoran-Houston based artist **Moe Penders** which recount the experience of losing their father during the war in El Salvador (1980-1992).

“ Moe's *Volver* is a counter narrative to the prevailing modes of omission and erasure forced upon our lives as diasporic subjects in the United States. ”

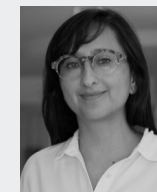
- Reyes Ramirez

Read the complete article at yescontemporary.org/writers-grant-2019

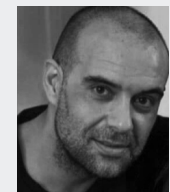
Y.ES thanks Independent jurors



ELENA SALAMANCA
Salvadoran writer and historian



NATALIA ZULUAGA
Curator and researcher
Co-runs [NAME] Publications



GUSTAVO PÉREZ DIEZ
ARTEINFORMADO

Y.ES ARTIST GRANTS



LA ÚNICA GALLERY

La Única Gallery, San Salvador, directed by **Javier Ramírez (Nadie)** and **Caroline Lacey**, is organizing the exhibition “Baggage”. This 2020 exhibition includes works by Salvadoran diaspora artists **Beatriz Cortez**, **Eddie Rodolfo Aparicio** and **Guadalupe Maravilla**, which fit in a suitcase.



THE FIRE THEORY

The Salvadoran collective The Fire Theory is based in San Salvador, Bogota and New York. The members of the collective **Crack Rodríguez**, **Ernesto Bautista**, **Mauricio Esquivel**, **Mauricio Kabistán** and **Melissa Guevara** convened in Bogotá during ARTBO Art Fair, to brainstorm an exhibition, talk and collaborations, in situ.

YES thanks Independent jurors



MIGUEL A. LÓPEZ

Writer, researcher and Co-Director and Chief Curator of TEOR/ÉTica, Costa Rica



NAAMA TSABAR

Artist



ROSINA CAZALI

Curator and independent researcher

Online Studio Visits

10 ONLINE STUDIO VISITS



JAVIER RAMÍREZ (NADIE) AND AMY GALPIN

Chief Curator at the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University
Amy included Javier’s work in a presentation at the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum.



MELISSA GUEVARA AND LAURA COPELIN

Ballroom Marfa Executive Director



BEATRIZ CORTEZ AND AMANDA SANFILIPPO

Curator and Artist Manager for Miami Dade’s Art in Public Places program, and the Director and Chief Curator of Fringe projects



ANTONIO MENA AND AMANDA SANFILIPPO

Curator and Artist Manager for Miami Dade’s Art in Public Places program, and the Director and Chief Curator of Fringe projects



**MELISSA GUEVARA AND
KATHRYN AND DAN
MIKESELL**

Founders of Fountainhead
Residency in Miami



**EDDIE RODOLFO APARICIO
AND JOSE CARLOS DIAZ**

Curator at The Andy Warhol
Museum



**VERÓNICA VIDES
AND DANIELA LIEJA
QUINTANAR**

Curator at Los Angeles
Contemporary Exhibitions
(LACE)



**ERNESTO BAUTISTA AND
JOSSELINE PINTO**

Curator at Manifiesto Espacio
Educational Curator and Head
of Researcher Department at
Fine Arts and Culture Foundation
FUNBA in Guatemala.

See impact under Y.ES
Contemporary Art Trips



**VERÓNICA VIDES AND
STEPHANIE SEIDEL**

Associate Curator at the Institute
for Contemporary Art (ICA) in
Miami



**SIMÓN VEGA AND BRYAN
BARCENA**

Assistant Curator and Manager
of Publications at The Museum of
Contemporary Art in Los Angeles

“Guadalupe Maravilla, who I met through your online studio visit program, is participating in the 22 Bienal de Arte Paiz - Guatemala opening on May 28, 2020.”

- Alexia Tala, Curator of the 22 Bienal de Arte Paiz, Guatemala

Curators Network (new)

Y.ES Curators is a network for international contemporary art curators to connect with contemporary art and curatorial practice in El Salvador, and Central America. Free and by invitation, Y.ES Curators serves as a cross-sectional meeting point.

34 INTERNATIONAL CURATORS



The Curator's Network can be viewed at yescontemporary.org/curators

Y.ES Library



Image courtesy Caroline Lacey

60

SELECT PUBLICATIONS IN Y.ES CONTEMPORARY'S ONLINE LIBRARY

1040

CONTEMPORARY ART BOOKS IN THE Y.ES CONTEMPORARY LIBRARY

ACTIVATIONS

- The library at Impact Hub San Salvador hosted Laboratorix workshop, organized by La Única Gallery, in October.
- Hosted the Y.ES Contemporary Writers Symposium follow up meeting in December.

Y.ES thanks our library partner Impact Hub San Salvador and our **38** book donors listed on our website yescontemporary.org/library

2019 Partners

The impact of Y.ES Contemporary in 2019 is made possible with the support of these partners:

CROWNE PLAZA CONFERENCE CENTER

CULTURAL CENTER OF SPAIN IN EL SALVADOR

ARTEINFORMADO

IMPACT HUB SAN SALVADOR

MUSEUM OF ART OF EL SALVADOR

LABERINTO PROJECTS

PHILLIPS

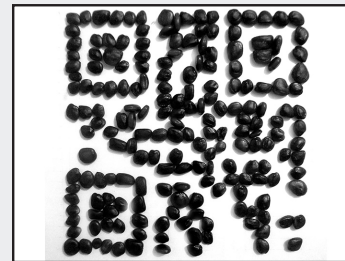
2019 Artist Highlights



BEATRIZ CORTEZ wins the 2019 Frieze Arto LIFEWTR® Sculpture Prize. Cortez will create a new large-scale outdoor work unveiled as part of Frieze Sculpture at Rockefeller Center, New York. In 2019, Cortez has solo exhibitions at Craft Contemporary Museum and Clockshop in Los Angeles, and participated in a three person exhibition at Ballroom Marfa, Texas, among others.



GUADALUPE MARAVILLA. In addition to The Museum of Modern Art, New York acquiring his work for their permanent collection in 2019, Guadalupe Maravilla had solo exhibitions at the ICA in Miami, performed at the Queens Museum and was awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation fellowship, and more.



JOSÉ ORLANDO VILLATORO'S QR code series is featured *In Real Life* at the Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College Chicago and is on view until March 29, 2020.



The Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College Chicago acquires artwork by **ABIGAIL REYES, CRACK RODRIGUEZ, JAVIER RAMIREZ (NADIE) AND MELISSA GUEVARA** for their permanent collection.



SIMÓN VEGA'S Installation *Mercado Modular de Ideas / Space Tianguis* is featured in *Cosmopolis #2: rethinking the human* at the Center Georges-Pompidou in Paris.



WALTERIO IRAHETA launches the online platform *Habitación d Dibujo* dedicated to artists in Central America working with the medium of drawing, and curates the accompanying *Bienal d Dibujo* at the Museum of Art of El Salvador on view until March 2020.



LA ÚNICA GALLERY, founded by **JAVIER RAMÍREZ** and **CAROLINE LACEY**, wins the 2019 Next Generation Prince Claus Award for the *Laboratorix* project: two interdisciplinary art experimentation workshops for young artists with a focus on gender roles and related taboo issues.



ALEXIA MIRANDA'S installation is featured in the central courtyard of the Wifredo Lam Centre of Contemporary Art for 2019 13th Havana Biennial.



EDDIE RODOLFO APARICIO Eddie Rodolfo Aparicio was awarded the California Community Foundation Fellowship for Visual Artists, and presented his solo exhibition "*País mío no existe*" at Paramo Gallery.

"In the five years that YES Contemporary has existed it has done more for Central American emerging and contemporary art than any other institution. Its programs are not only designed to bring awareness about art from El Salvador to the world, but also to put the country itself on the map as a "go to" art destination. Mario and Robert have a bold vision, and they also execute thoughtfully. I have enjoyed being a part of this initiative tremendously and am very much looking forward to continue learning through their program."

-Adriana Cisneros de Griffin

"Congratulations on Y.ES's first 5 years. It has been a true honor to form part of your vision, and experience the radical transformative impact that the program has had on El Salvador's contemporary artistic landscape. Cheers to many more to come!"

-Carolina Alvarez-Mathies

"Thank you so much for your vision and all of the work you have done and continue to do through Y.ES Contemporary. I am so grateful for your efforts in recognizing, supporting, and elevating the arts of our community both in El Salvador and abroad, and for building a network that brings us together."

-Francis Almendarez

Y.ES IS AN INITIATIVE OF THE ROBERT S. WENNETT AND
MARIO CADER-FRECH FOUNDATION

Y.ES Council

Mario Cader-Frech
Robert S. Wennett
Adriana Cisneros de Griffin
Simón Vega
Carolina Alvarez-Mathies
Gabriela Poma
Solita Cohen

Y.ES Team

Claire Breukel
Patricio Majano