

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Sept. 21, 2021
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FERRIN
CONTEMPORARY

IN DIALOGUE: Cristina Córdova & Kukuli Velarde

focus on artists working in clay, the figure, cultural identity



North Adams, MA - Ferrin Contemporary is excited to present **IN DIALOGUE: Cristina Córdova & Kukuli Velarde** from Oct. 16 - Nov. 28, 2021.

There are many moments of adjacency and connection between the two artists and their works. Both are using clay and operate in the figurative tradition to explore cultural, generational, and personal identities. Their many dual roles provide the touchstone and launching points for their works: daughters themselves and now also mothers to young women, citizens and artistic producers in two cultures, and artists whose work is centered in clay but branches into other media as well.

We are proud to present some of the most significant works to-date from both artists. **IN DIALOGUE** features works from across several years, however, the newest pieces were made during the height of the pandemic. As challenging as the pandemic is, and as harrowing as the lockdowns were, it also provided the necessary, uninterrupted time for the artists to take on major projects. This time, coupled with bearing witness to the

ongoing protest movements around colonial histories and Latin cultural identity, pushed the artists to respond in momentous ways.

Leslie Ferrin, founder & director of Ferrin Contemporary says: “Velarde’s painting ‘*SPEAK SPANISH, YO HABLO INGLÉS*’ and Córdova’s sculpture ‘*ALTAR*’ are important, major and timely both for what they represent for the artists as well their significance in the arc of their careers. The works mark the challenging times we’ve all been through. As we watch monuments fall and question what they represent, these works and these artists bring attention to the issues of diversity, gender, and cultural identity.”

Cristina Córdova was born in Boston, MA, and grew up in San Juan, Puerto Rico; she now lives in Penland, NC. Córdova works in ceramic, photography, and film focusing on themes of the body, place, and family. “I was born into a household that both challenged and upheld gender archetypes. This created a fluid creative voice that has moved me to engage with the body, primarily, with a wide array of narrative perspectives – from the sexually untethered and universal to the absolutely feminine and native. I am human; I am Puerto Rican; I am a woman. Each of these breaks into a thousand facets that create the prism through which my work comes into the world” says Córdova.

Kukuli Velarde was born in Lima, Perú and now lives in Philadelphia, PA. She specializes in painting and ceramic sculptures made out of clay and terra-cotta. Velarde focuses on the themes of gender and the consequences of colonization in Latin American contemporary culture. Her ceramic work is a visual investigation of aesthetics, cultural survival, and inheritance. “I focus on Latin American history, particularly that of Perú, because it is the reality with which I am familiar. I do so convinced that its complexity has universal characteristics and any conclusion can be understood beyond the frame of its uniqueness,” she says of her work.

Concurrent clay at the MASS MoCA campus

Ceramics will have a major presence at the MASS MoCA campus this fall with the opening of **CERAMICS IN THE EXPANDED FIELD**, curated by Senior Curator Susan Cross. CERAMICS IN THE EXPANDED FIELD brings together a group of eight artists whose ambitious works integrate ceramics, a medium long siloed and marginalized, with disciplines ranging from photography and video to painting and performance. While they push ceramics beyond its traditional functional forms, these artists simultaneously connect their work to the complex material and social histories of pottery as well as other crafts that lie outside fine art definitions, including basket weaving, furniture-making, and lowrider culture. Opens Oct. 16 and continues through Spring 2023.

Artists include Nicole Cherubini, Armando Guadalupe Cortés, Francesca diMattio, Jessica Jackson Hutchins, Kahlil Robert Irving, Anina Major, Rose B. Simpson, Linda Sormin.

About

Leslie Ferrin is the director of Ferrin Contemporary (North Adams, MA) and Project Art (Cummington, MA). Specializing in contemporary ceramic art 1950 - present, Ferrin is an internationally respected curator focused on ceramics. Ferrin works in support of artists, private collectors, and also in partnership with galleries and museums throughout the USA and internationally. As director of the gallery program, Ferrin organizes and presents solo exhibitions, manages touring creative projects, and develops legacy ceramic collections for sale and gifts on behalf of artists and private collectors. In addition to the gallery, Ferrin directs Project Art, a live/work international ceramic artist residency where there are ongoing, short, and long-term projects based in ceramic art.

FERRIN CONTEMPORARY presents contemporary ceramic art, sculpture and selected works for sale by represented artists, masterworks from private collections throughout the year. Located on MASS MoCA's 16 acre campus in North Adams, Massachusetts in Building 13, the airy, white box space serves as both a project incubator and traditional commercial gallery program. Curated exhibitions are presented in conjunction with partner galleries, museums and educational institutions throughout the country.Â

Ferrin Contemporary is the preferred source for contemporary ceramic art circa 1950 to present, with over 40 years of experience and expertise in the presentation for sale of primary and secondary market works by leading international artists whose primary medium is clay.

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Oct. 16 - Nov. 28, 2021
FERRIN CONTEMPORARY
at 1315 MASS MoCA Way
North Adams, MA 01247

HOURS
Wednesdays through Saturdays
11 am to 5 pm or by appointment
Call 413.346.4004
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