

OUTPOST FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

CURATED BY RONALD RAFAEL LOPEZ

RIO HONDO COLLEGE

LUCIANA ABAIT

RAUL BALTAZAR

MARTIN DURAZO
IN COLLABORATION WITH
VIDAL HERRERA

MARCUS KUILAND-NAZARIO

ICHIRO IRIE

VINCENT RAMOS

CERRITOS COLLEGE

CASTILLO

KARLA DIAZ

GUSTAVO GODOY

ELANA MANN

BLUEBIRD ARTHOUSE

LIZZ LOPEZ

VIDAL HERRERA

MOBILEMURALLAB

OCTOBER 20, 2011 - NOVEMBER 18, 2011

**R
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biennial



ADAPTATION • ASSIMILATION • ACCULTURATION

CO-FOUNDERS: ROBERT MILLER & RONALD LOPEZ
GALLERY DIRECTORS: ROBERT MILLER (RIO HONDO COLLEGE) • JAMES MACDEVITT (CERRITOS COLLEGE)
VERONICA MARTINEZ (BLUEBIRD ARTHOUSE) • CURATORIAL ASSISTANTS: JESSICA NICOL & NELSON MELLO

LETTER FROM RIO HONDO COLLEGE DEAN

Way back in 2010, Rio Hondo College's art gallery director, Robert Miller, began discussing the idea of mounting an exhibition at Rio Hondo College as part of the Los Angeles-based Pacific Standard Time, an initiative supporting Los Angeles and Southern California-based artists. Miller was interested in a collaboration between Rio Hondo and other local gallery partners to explore how art and artists originating south of the border have influenced the Los Angeles art scene. Ronald Rafael Lopez, director of the Outpost for Contemporary Art, teamed with Miller and together they envisioned an exhibition of vast intellectual and artistic scope - an examination of how Latino/a culture has influenced the LA-based artists' craft. And so began the show that would eventually become the 1st Los Angeles SUR:biennial.

SUR is the Spanish word for south and the biennial brings together artists from Los Angeles that have been inspired, influenced, or descended from the countries south of the US border. In addition to Lopez, this show partners gallery director Miller of Rio Hondo College with James MacDevitt, director of the Cerritos College Art Gallery, and Veronica Martinez, owner/director of the Bluebird Art Gallery. Each location presents new and original work of the Latino/a artists participating in this joint show and extends the reach of that work with panel discussions, performance art, and lectures targeted at helping students understand the themes of cultural identity, especially the fluid relationship between adaptation and assimilation, as well as Southern California's connection to its Latino/a roots.

The Rio Hondo College Art Gallery has long sought to represent Angelenos' work and, as a Hispanic-serving institution, has an established history of support for Latino/a artists. For our students to experience, participate in, and share the vision of these professional artists, is an opportunity which we continually seek out and from which we benefit. We have watched as our students have come to Rio Hondo not believing they can find their way in the art world, only to emerge as confident artists with a vision and purpose as they go on to other higher education and professional opportunities.

Our goal is for our students to become the artists of tomorrow. The Rio Hondo and Cerritos College Art programs help that goal become reality. Rio Hondo College is proud to be a founding partner in the 1st Los Angeles SUR:biennial. We have enjoyed our collaboration with the Los Angeles arts world in general, and with our educational partners in particular. We hope this will be the first of many more biennials to come.

Dr. JoAnna Downey-Schilling

The 2nd Los Angeles
SUR:biennial

CERRITOS COLLEGE ART GALLERY

Oct 24 - Dec 5

RIO HONDO COLLEGE ART GALLERY

Oct 17 - Nov 18

TORRANCE ART MUSEUM

Oct 26 - Nov 9

All works of art are, inherently, collaborative, in one way or another. At its most basic, there exists a partnership between the one who creates the work and the one who experiences it. More often, though, the collaboration exists on many different levels - between artist and craftsman, between artist and curator, between artist and critic. The 2nd Los Angeles *SUR:biennial* represents the combined collaborative effort of three institutions - Rio Hondo and Cerritos Colleges, along with the Torrance Art Museum - together with artists from across Southern California and beyond. Each partner in this venture contributed a unique element to the mix, creating a whole that is so much greater than the sum of its constituent parts.

The very fact of this collaboration shines a spotlight on areas normally outside the dominant world of art, as it is typically manifested in Southern California, centered in places like Santa Monica, Culver City, and even downtown Los Angeles. In this way, the *SUR:biennial* also reflects the ongoing and evolving meta-collaboration of cultures, languages, and experiences that breathes life into this unique region, our grand megalopolis, including, but also stretching well beyond those so-called centers. Drawing from thousands of individual, and often marginalized, communities and neighborhoods, this hybridization can seem confusing, and even contradictory, at times, but, oh, so vibrant in its blending.

Chris Guptill
Dean of Arts & Cultural Programs
Interim Director of Continuing Education
Rio Hondo College