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**City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs**

**Announces Landmark**

**Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA Exhibition**

***Condemned To Be Modern***

**Curated by Clara Kim**

**at the**

**Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery**

**September 10, 2017 through January 28, 2018**

Los Angeles – ***Condemned To Be Modern***is presented by the **City of**

**Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)**at its **Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG)** in partnership with the **Mayor’s Fund**

**for Los Angeles**. *Condemned To Be Modern*brings together the work

of 21 contemporary artists who have responded critically to the history of modernist architecture in Latin America.

In works produced during the last two decades, these artists explore the effects, contradictions, and contested legacies of modernism in Brazil, Cuba, and Mexico as expressed through ambitious construction of government buildings, public housing, universities, and even new cities during moments of radical political

and social change.

The architecture and urban planning of these moments continue to serve

as critical reference points for artists including **Eduardo Abaroa** (Mexico), **Jonathas de Andrade** (Brazil), **Leonor Antunes** (Portugal/Germany), **Alexander Apóstol** (Venezuela/Spain), **Felipe Dulzaides** (Cuba), and **Melanie Smith** (Mexico), among others. Together, these artists provide a sociological exploration that connects architecture with political ideologies,

social values, and contemporary reality, while engendering dialogue about

the role of government and public policy on the development, preservation,

and use of the built environment.

“Los Angeles became one of the greatest cities in the world by embracing collaboration, diversity, and political discourse,” said **City of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti**. “Art has the power to ignite conversation and transform perspectives for people from every background. PST: LA/LA addresses critical issues from civic identity to social unrest, while also evoking the strong cultural connections between Los Angeles and Latin America.”

“Taking its title from the infamous words of Brazilian critic Mario Pedrosa, *Condemned To Be Modern*examines architecture not as a static structure,

but as a living organism that changes meaning and purpose over time. The exhibition aims to explore the multiple facets of modernist architecture in

Latin America, at once symbolizing a desire to connect with the larger world,

but also recognizing the inevitable and inescapable forces – political, cultural, and social – that have defined and redefined Latin American cities. Artists cast

a critical and imaginative perspective on this inherited legacy, interrogating its contested histories as well as imagining its possible future,” said ***Condemned To Be Modern curator Clara Kim.***

Additionally, the exhibition examines LA's own architectural monuments, illuminating connections between Latin America and the rich architectural

history of our city, including the Mayan influences on Frank Lloyd Wright’s Hollyhock House, situated at Barnsdall Park. Beyond the 10,000 square foot gallery space, the presentation will dynamically extend outside into the Park grounds.

“With a steadfast focus on empowering and nurturing LA’s vibrant communities through the arts, it is fitting that DCA’s *Condemned To Be Modern* exhibition — with its focus on development, preservation, and use of the built environment — will be showcased at LAMAG, one of our country’s last remaining municipal art galleries,” said **DCA’s General Manager Danielle Brazell**. “Moreover, the presentation reflects our city’s rediscovery of its own public spaces, an increased emphasis on public transit development, and, most importantly, our promise to preserve and share arts and culture with the greater community.”

Related public programming for *Condemned To Be Modern* will include artists talks and film screenings with artists in the exhibition, scholars, writers, and architects. A 4-color, 160-page catalogue will document the exhibition and provide a historical and architectural context with contributions by:

Brazilian scholar and curator Guilherme Wisnik; the Cuban modernist expert Eduardo Luis Rodriguez; Mexican writer and curator Daniel Garza-Usabiaga;

and exhibition curator Clara Kim.

On view from September 10, 2017 through January 28, 2018, *Condemned*

*To Be Modern*, curated by guest curator, Clara Kim, opens with a public reception on September 10 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Los Angeles

Municipal Art Gallery (Barnsdall Art Park, 4800 Hollywood Boulevard,

Los Angeles, CA, 90027) with a special performance by **Crystal Sepulveda**

as part of **Clarissa Tossin’s** newly commissioned project inspired by the

Mayan Revival architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright’s Hollyhock House.

*Condemned To Be Modern* is part of **Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA**,

a far-reaching and ambitious exploration of Latin American and Latino art in

dialogue with Los Angeles. Supported by grants from the **Getty Foundation**, **Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA** takes place from September 2017 through January 2018 at more than 70 cultural institutions across Southern California, from Los Angeles to Palm Springs, and from San Diego to Santa Barbara.

**Pacific Standard Time** is an initiative of the **Getty**. The presenting sponsor is **Bank of America**.

Major support for this exhibition and publication is provided through grants

from the **Getty Foundation**.

*Condemned To Be Modern* is also supported by the **National Endowment for the Arts**, **The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation**, and the **City of Los Angeles Department on Disability**. The exhibition includes the work of the following 21 artists: **Eduardo Abaroa**, **Jonathas de Andrade**, **Leonor Antunes**, **Alexander Apóstol**, **Alexandre Arrechea**, **Ramiro Chaves**,

**Felipe Dulzaides**, **Carlos Garaicoa**, **Terence Gower**, **Tamar Guimarães**, **Lucia Koch,** **Runo Lagomarsino**, **Renata Lucas**, **Lais Myrrha**,

**Manuel Piña**, **Mauro Restiffe**, **Beto Shwafaty**, **Melanie Smith**, **Tercerunquinto**, **Clarissa Tossin**, and **Héctor Zamora**.

**About the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)**

As a leading, progressive arts and cultural agency, DCA empowers Los Angeles’ vibrant communities by supporting and providing access to quality visual, literary, musical, performing, and educational arts programming; managing

vital cultural centers; preserving historic sites; creating public art; and funding services provided by arts organizations and individual artists. Formed in 1925, DCA promotes arts and culture as a way to ignite a powerful dialogue, engage LA’s residents and visitors, and ensure LA’s varied cultures are recognized, acknowledged, and experienced.

DCA’s mission is to strengthen the quality of life in Los Angeles by stimulating and supporting arts and cultural activities, ensuring public access to the arts

for residents and visitors alike. DCA advances the social and economic impact

of arts and culture through grant-making, public art, community arts,

performing arts, and strategic marketing and development. DCA creates

and supports arts programming, maximizing relationships with other city agencies, artists, and arts and cultural nonprofit organizations to provide excellent service in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles.

For more information, please visit [culturela.org](http://culturela.org/) or follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/culturela](https://www.facebook.com/culturela/); Instagram [@culture\_la](https://www.instagram.com/culture_la/?hl=en); and Twitter [@culture\_la](https://twitter.com/culture_la?lang=en).

**About the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery**

DCA’s LAMAG is the City’s flagship exhibition space. LAMAG showcases the

work of emerging, mid-career, and established artists whose contributions enhance the culture of the city and help make creativity LA’s number one economic engine. The Gallery’s reputation for supporting Los Angeles artists

and cultural communities through its exhibitions is unparalleled. The original gallery, a temporary structure designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, was built in

1954. The current 10,000 square foot gallery opened in 1971, presenting

and interpreting successive waves of artists and movements.

Today, exhibitions of contemporary art are developed by DCA’s curatorial

staff and with invited guest curators. For over nineteen years, LAMAG has premiered the artwork of the recipients of DCA’s annual City of Los Angeles (C.O.L.A.) Individual Artist Fellowships Program, and has collaborated with important arts and cultural institutions.

For more information, please visit [lamag.org](http://www.lamag.org/).

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