



**MEDIA ALERT**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs  
Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery  
Presents**

***Tristan Espinoza: Index, Interiors***  
***Panteha Abareschi: Tender Calamities***  
***Maru Garcia: membrane tensions***  
***Alexandre Dorriz: Public Sculpture 001-C***

LOS ANGELES - The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) and the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG) are pleased to present a series of four solo exhibitions featuring newly commissioned work by Los Angeles artists Panteha Abarshi, Alexandre Dorriz, Tristan Espinoza, and Maru Garcia. This series of exhibitions reimagine the role of the gallery experience for our current times by presenting research-based artists outside of the white box. Each respective exhibition engages a variety of interdisciplinary themes, with Tristan Espinoza's activation of machine learning; Panteha Abareschi's relationship to epidemiology; Maru Garcia's creative approach to experimentation, cellular evolution, and collaboration; and Alexandre Dorriz's investigative research into the mechanics of transactions, public policy, and water rights.

***Tristan Espinoza: Index, Interiors, January 14 — April 22, 2021***

Tristan Espinoza's ***Index, Interiors***, presents the site-specific, web-based artwork, *perennial*, a project archiving the artist's personal and cultural histories associated with Southern California's ubiquitous citrus heritage. Espinoza indexes an array of recording and rendering approaches—from the hand-made artistic medium of cyanotypes to an obscured second-hand comprehension derived from artificial intelligence—poetically cultivating a discourse around societal relationships and distances to material experiences, memories, and their proxies.

*Tristan Espinoza [b. 1995, Tamuning, Guam (he/they)] has exhibited internationally and in the US, in places such as the Archer Beach Haus, Chicago, IL; the Sullivan Galleries, Chicago, IL; Supplyframe DesignLab, Pasadena, CA; 187 Augusta, Medford, NY; and Human Resources, Los Angeles, CA. Espinoza is a current MFA candidate at the University of California, Los Angeles' Design*



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*Media Arts program and holds a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.*

***Panteha Abareshi: Tender Calamities, February 4 — April 22, 2021***

Panteha Abareshi's exhibition showcases two new films that will premier online along with a sculptural installation, all of which examines the tensions between the impermanence of the human body, and the intimate objects (both biological and synthetic) our bodies leave behind after it ceases to function. Their work plays with the idea of prosthetics as a mechanized object fulfilling malfunction and void in our bodies to back to what is perceived to be normal, including an exploration of how these prosthetics exist as objects and ideas beyond their function. Abareshi's work complicates traditional notions of *memento mori* by how these objects reconsider the frequently otherized body that is diseased and malfunctioning, rather than viewing this natural phenomenon as a normal, inevitable function of life.

*Panteha Abareshi [b. 1999, Montreal, Canada (they/them)] is currently completing their BFA at the University of Southern California's Roski School of Art and Design. Abareshi has performed and exhibited at the Institute of Contemporary Art Los Angeles; Human Resources, Los Angeles; and the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, among others.*

***Maru Garcia: membrane tensions, March 4 — April 22, 2021***

Maru Garcia's exhibition features a multifaceted time-based installation commissioned especially for the LAMAG. Her installation, *membrane tensions*, is made up of three in-gallery components: an active laboratory of live cultures (yeast and bacteria) to harvest cellulose for the other two components; an intervention light into of gallery's windows with the cellulose; and an installation of suspended sculptural forms also made from cellulose. The site-specific installation will be monitored, documented, and presented through online streaming from LAMAG's website.

*membrane tensions* evoke the beginnings of the primordial soup of life and the early build blocks of when lifeforms first emerged. Essential to this was the biological delineation between internal and external. Garcia's uses cellulose created from microbial symbiotic relationships as a metaphorical "membrane" that explores these ideas of relationships and interconnectivity through the idea of exchange and collaboration through porous boundaries on a biological, artistic, and sociopolitical level in considering how we can reimagine future relationships and collaborations by examining basic building blocks of primordial relationships.

*Maru Garcia [b. Puebla, Mexico (she/her)] has participated in conferences, solo and group exhibitions in North America, Europe, and Asia. She was an artist in residence in the National Center of Genetic Resources in Mexico. She received awards from Los Angeles Sustainability Collaborative, Clifton Webb Scholarship*



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*for the Arts, and Fundación Jumex. She is based in LA and holds an MFA in Design & Media Arts from the University of California, Los Angeles, and an M.S. in Biotechnology and B.S. in Chemistry from Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico.*

**Alexandre Dorriz: Public Sculpture 001-C, March 18 — April 22, 2021**

Alexandre Dorriz's practice investigates power networks often unnoticed behind the facades of public works, researching politics behind public essentials such as space, land-use, and water distribution. Dorriz's *Public Sculpture 001-C* takes viewers through a journey of research, tallying and mapping the many means and measures involved in advancing an artist's concept through production phases and public presentation, ultimately revealing the internal exchanges that determinately shape and shift the materialization and fabricated value structuring a commissioned public work. Dorriz's research-based process unfurls bureaucratic affairs to issue a space for vital conversations in creative production, such as the monetization of creative labor, complicated discrepancies in funding, and the dynamics behind transactions such as donations and public acquisitions and their political substrates.

*Alexandre Dorriz [b. 1990, Los Angeles, California (he/him)] has previously exhibited at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Visitor Welcome Center, Human Resources, ltd los angeles, and the San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles. Dorriz's writing has appeared in Temporary Art Review, and his work has been featured in the Los Angeles Review of Books Quarterly and reviewed in Artforum. He is an artist-gallerist-organizer and co-founder of the Crenshaw Dairy Mart and inaugural professor for the Social and Environmental Arts Practice MFA at Prescott College, where he will teach courses on studio practice and critical museology. Dorriz received his MFA at the University of Southern California and his BA at the University of California, Berkeley.*

The online exhibitions will launch a format distinct from LAMAG's typical web content. The virtual exhibition design will display artworks and initiate visitor interaction opportunities through response prompts with additional engagement through a free downloadable educator, family and gallery guides, and a chance to further connect by attending LAMAG's virtual programming events.

The artworks can be found [here](https://www.lamag.org/portfolio_page/abareshi-dorriz-espinoza-garcia) ([https://www.lamag.org/portfolio\\_page/abareshi-dorriz-espinoza-garcia](https://www.lamag.org/portfolio_page/abareshi-dorriz-espinoza-garcia)) throughout the duration of the individual exhibition dates.

Subscribe to LAMAG's newsletter and follow us on social to stay updated on all programming and exhibition developments. Find us on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) @LAMAGBarnsdall, and join us with #LAMAGallery.



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**About the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG)**

Established in 1954, the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery is the longest-running institution in Los Angeles devoted solely to exhibiting art. The gallery focuses on artists from Los Angeles, in particular, underrepresented artists whose work may not otherwise have found a platform. LAMAG's exhibitions, educational, and public programs aim to inspire conversation about the contemporary issues and ideas that resonate most with the people of Los Angeles.

Many local artists who have exhibited at the gallery have gone on to become fixtures of the international art world, including Eleanor Antin, John Baldessari, Mark Bradford, Vija Celmins, David Hammons, Barbara Kruger, Kerry James Marshall, Senga Nengudi, Catherine Opie, and Ed Ruscha. Today, the gallery continues to build on this rich legacy, operating as a site of discovery for outstanding work by the city's most exciting artists, from recent graduates to practitioners with years of experience.

Offering free admission and programs, LAMAG serves as a welcoming space for everyone, regardless of their income level, personal history, ethnicity, sexual orientation, immigration status, religion, or gender identity.

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

As a leading, progressive arts and cultural agency, DCA empowers Los Angeles's 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, development, design, and digital research. 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.

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