



For Immediate Release
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HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY HOSTS ‘THE FUTURE IS LATINX’ ART EXHIBIT AT NEW PARK STREET LIBRARY

Opening reception and artists talk scheduled for April 22

(Hartford, CT) – Hartford Public Library will host an art exhibit entitled “The Future Is Latinx” this spring at the new Park Street Library @ the Lyric.

The exhibit will feature three emerging artists from Connecticut whose work envisions the Latinx future: Adrian Martinez Chavez, Rafael Concepcion and Alejandro De La Guerra. Chavez is pursuing a master’s degree in fine art at Yale University, Concepcion is studying for his MFA at UConn and De La Guerra will enter Brook College’s MFA program in the fall.

The exhibit will be on display at the Park Street Library @ the Lyric (603 Park St., Hartford, CT 06106) from **April 8 through May 31**. An opening reception and artists talk is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on **April 22**.

“Although their current work is about their immediate present — Chavez’s black and white photos celebrate his family members, and their day-to-day activities; Concepcion’s color photos rejoice in Puerto Rico’s rural settings; De La Guerra’s glow-color collages challenge our esthetic sensibility — these subjects will help delineate a Latinx future of community and celebration,” **said Julia Wintner, coordinator of gallery and museum services at Eastern Connecticut State University and the curator of the exhibit.** “In the face of great uncertainties, the artwork of Chavez, Concepcion, and De La Guerra exudes permanence and dignity.”



Rafael Concepcion

Rafael Concepción is a photographer and artist based in northern Connecticut. His work operates adjacent to the documentary photographic tradition, often implementing a variety of

visual motifs and sequencing strategies in order to achieve a wide array of emotional effects. The projects he pursues are frequently contingent on his processing of a specific emotion regarding his subject: love, frustration, anger, etc. Upon receiving his BFA from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Concepción participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions across the northeastern United States. He has given artist talks at both Lesley University and Rutgers University, and has been featured in Boston Voyager, From Here on Out, Don't Take Pictures, and more. In 2020, he received the Zachs Award from the University of Connecticut, funding the further pursuit of his project "Where Do I Know You From?", a collection of photographs that deal with his experience of his heritage being a half Puerto Rican person.



Adrian Martinez Chavez

Born to immigrants from Mexico, Adrian Martinez Chavez is a photographer who lives and works in New Haven, Connecticut. His work focuses on immigrant communities living in the United States, specifically from his family's point of view. Chavez's family's journey and life in the US serve as a source of inspiration in his work that revolves around ideas of love, labor, and assimilation through an intimate view of daily life in America. Adrian received his BFA in photography from the University of Hartford's, Hartford Art School where he was awarded the Isadore Berson Photography Award and the Alexander A Goldfarb Purchase Prize. His work has been exhibited regionally and nationally and can be found in public and private collections such as the Goldfarb Memorial Collection at the University of Hartford. He has been the recipient of grants from the Connecticut Office of the Arts, The Greater Hartford Arts Council, and The New York Foundation for the Arts. Chavez is currently an MFA candidate in Photography at Yale University's School of Art.

Alejandro De La Guerra

Alejandro De La Guerra is an interdisciplinary artist, educator, performer and poet born in Nicaragua. His artistic work is focused in the aesthetics of power; specially in the idea of the monumental approaches of history and the political power. The main thematic point of reference of de la Guerra's art is historical memory. Among his best-known works is the public sculpture/performance piece, La Caída (The Downfall), in which a famous torn-down equestrian statue of former Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza was first meticulously re-created and re-mounted, and then torn down again before a large assembly in Managua. De La Guerra studied at the Escuela Nacional de Artes Rodrigo Peñalba and Superior School of Arts EspIRA-

La ESPORA and received a bachelor's degree in graphic design from Universidad Politécnica de Nicaragua.

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About Hartford Public Library

Now celebrating its 128th year, Hartford Public Library remains at the forefront of redefining the urban library experience in the 21st century. With seven locations throughout the city, the library provides education, intellectual enrichment and cultural development for thousands of children, youth and adults every year. Hartford Public Library has also gained local and national recognition for its wide range of new initiatives and partnerships designed to meet the needs of a diverse and dynamic city and region, including immigration services, employment assistance and youth leadership training. www.hplct.org.