

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 29, 2018

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TO LIVE AND DWELL IN LA

Photographer Rafael Cardenas Hits Stride with Solo Show at LA Plaza Sept 8



Image Credit: *In Perpetuum*; Rafael Cardenas, 2018.

Los Angeles, CA (August 29, 2018) - Los Angeles photographer Rafael Cardenas opens his next solo show, ***Landscapes and Land Dwellers: Photography of Place by Rafael Cardenas*** on Saturday, September 8, 2018 at LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes from 3:00 pm-5:00 pm. Media is invited for a press preview on Wednesday, September 5, 2018 from 5:00 pm-7:00 pm.

With this series, Cardenas deepens his connection to local history and community with hauntingly captured photographs of small businesses, generational homes, empty lots and legacies lost as a result of changing demographics, economic policies and political climates. The images include stunning aerial shots taken from a helicopter, juxtaposing the vast landscape of Los Angeles with the intimate images of the very people that dwell within the landscapes. Filled wall-to-wall with 60 color photographs the exhibition offers an added time-lapse video installation of over 10,000 images.

“It’s fascinating to me how LA is such a huge part of my identity. I have inhaled this air for over 40 years. The city is definitely part of my process and continues to shape my photographic trajectory,” explains Cardenas, who was raised in East Los Angeles.

“*Landscapes and Land Dwellers* explores the layers of Los Angeles’s landscape, capturing the ways people have inscribed, erased, and re-inscribed its natural and manmade features. His photographs reveal historic contexts, contemporary realities, and states of transition that link the past and the present,” said Erin M. Curtis, Ph.D., senior curator at LA Plaza and co-curator of the exhibition.

People as land dwellers negotiate landscapes to create place; negotiating family, economics, and political moments. Cardenas uses his camera to reflect the lives of Angelenos in the ever changing landscapes of the communities he knows best, documenting vibrant lives, legacies and resilience. Cardenas includes his own poetry in the exhibition offering a multi-layered examination of how he sees the changing landscape of our lives:

I tasted everything today

The smog
 The stench
 The rubber
 The asphalt
 The flowers
 The nopales
 The tacos
 The horchata

Last week there was a car accident there
 Last year there was no pharmacy there
 In the 80s there was a dirt lot there
 Maybe a smilodon once walked there (22-34)

The exhibition is co-curated by Erin M. Curtis, Ph.D., senior curator and Mariah Shevchuk, associate curator at LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes, located in downtown Los Angeles.



Image Credit: *El Peso del Ajeteo*, Rafael Cardenas, 2018

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Rafael Cardenas (1970) was born in Jalisco, Mexico and raised in East Los Angeles. His work has been presented in solo exhibitions at Eastside Luv and Espacio 1839, the Vincent Price Museum and in group exhibitions at Avenue 50 Studio, La Bodega Gallery, Self Help Graphics & Art, and the Vincent Price Art Museum. Cardenas is a self-taught photographer who has been practicing since 2010. A publication of his works, *MAS ACA: Further Here*, was released in 2016. www.rafa.la

MEDIA PREVIEW

Wednesday, September 5, 2018 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm. Refreshments will be served.

ON VIEW

September 8, 2018 – March 25, 2019

LOCATION

[LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes, 501 North Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012](#)

LINK TO HIGH RES IMAGES

[HTTPS://WWW.DROPBOX.COM/SH/CZA102KTLN15H81/AAAFQxUVLpBgEZkLI-g6SILA?DL=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/cza102kTLN15H81/AAAFQxUVLpBgEZkLI-g6SILA?DL=0)

RELATED PROGRAMMING

LA Plaza will host a series of free public programs complementing *Landscapes and Land Dwellers: Photography of Place by Rafael Cardenas* throughout the run of the exhibition. lapca.org

Opening Reception | Saturday, September 8, 2018 | 3-5pm

Celebrate the opening of *Landscapes and Land Dwellers*. To RSVP, e-mail rsvp@lapca.org.

Artist Talk: Rafael Cardenas | Thursday, September 20, 2018 | 7pm

Join Rafael Cardenas for a gallery walkthrough of *Landscapes and Land Dwellers* and hear his personal insights about documenting L.A.'s people and places.

Roundtable Discussion | Thursday, February 7, 2019 | 7pm

Join Rafael Cardenas, Director of Self-Help Graphics Betty Avila, and prominent artists for a discussion about art and creative processes. Stay for the Q&A!

La Lunada: L.A.'s Landscapes in Notes and Words | Thursday, March 21, 2019 | 7pm

Enjoy a night of music with Los Angeles-based jazz band Hayokaht as well as poetry from a selected group inspired by Rafael Cardenas' photographs.

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