

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Shelby Graham

sesnon@ucsc.edu**The Mary Porter Sesnon Art Gallery Presents*****Eduardo Carrillo: Comunidad de Califas***
Virtual Exhibition**February 3 – April 3, 2021***Eduardo Carrillo often felt “enrichment of the spirit through the practice of painting.”*

Detail from Eduardo Carrillo, Three Women of Tepeyac, oil on canvas, 1993

Opening Reception via Zoom: Feb. 3 at 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Featuring virtual exhibition tour, website, and panel discussion with Amalia Mesa-Bains, Philip Brookman, Victor Cervantes, and Irene Juárez O’Connell, with introductions by Shelby Graham, Sesnon Gallery Director.

Website and registration Info: <https://art.ucsc.edu/sesnon/eduardo-carrillo>

The [Califas Legacy Project](#) has unified the Monterey Bay Area in a vibrant collaboration with the [Sesnon Art Gallery](#), [Museo de Eduardo Carrillo](#), [Monterey Museum of Art](#), [Santa Cruz Art League](#), and [Moving Parts Press](#).

The exhibition showcases the breadth of Eduardo Carrillo’s work spanning from his early career after his studies at UCLA to his later life living in Santa Cruz, comprehensive across oil and

watercolor mediums. Through a custom-designed virtual gallery, the visitor can view Eduardo Carrillo's smallest paintings in astonishing detail, sharing the limelight with his most spacious works. Artists associated with the *Califas Legacy Project* along with next generation Chicana artists also present a few select works in conversation with Carrillo's, bridging time and artistry to delve deeper into community and support, even posthumously.

Eduardo Carrillo: Comunidad de Califas anthologizes the life-work of the titular artist through his personal manifestations of "Califas"— in identity, spirituality and community. Califas is a branch of the Chicana movement that centers Californian Latinx culture and struggle in its educational mission. In the current age, we seek a type of beauty that reflects our neighbors and our towns. We seek strength in togetherness, a notion that Eduardo Carrillo emulated in his art and during the conception of Califas. What can ancestry and tradition teach us about resilience in the face of oppression?

Amalia Mesa-Bains reflects, "In 1982, Professor Eduardo Carrillo, artist and educator, brought together Chicana from across the state of California for the first time. In that moment the concept of *Califas* was associated with California Chicana artists and although the Northern and Southern California artists have been recognized, the presence of Chicana artists from the Central Coast was less visible. The Califas Project has brought a new vitality to this unique art, history and geography of meaning for artists of the region." Califas Legacy artists featured: Amalia Mesa-Bains, Carmen León, Guillermo Aranda, Ralph D'Oliveira, and Felicia Rice.

To include multiple voices, we've added a *Next Perspectives* room in the virtual gallery that exhibits works by a new generation of Latinx artists. Victor Cervantes, Irene Juárez O'Connell, Jorge Gomez-Gonzalez, Jennifer Ortiz, Natalie Jauregui Ortiz and Karina Tavares Perez are all UC Santa Cruz alumni with connections to Eduardo Carrillo. Victor Cervantes and Irene Juárez O'Connell will discuss their mural projects in an upcoming Sesnon Speak Up event on February 10, 2021. Jennifer Ortiz, Natalie Jauregui Ortiz, and Karina Tavares Perez were all recipients of the Eduardo Carrillo Scholarship in 2018. Since its inception in 1997, the Eduardo Carrillo Scholarship has benefited over 250 outstanding UCSC Art students working in painting, sculpture, photography and drawing. The Arts Division is grateful to Alison Carrillo for her generosity, vision, and commitment to helping students pursue their creativity through art, which this scholarship helps make possible.

About Eduardo Carrillo:

Eduardo Carrillo was a beloved friend, artist, and active member of the Santa Cruz community. Before his passing in 1997, Carrillo worked as a Professor of Art at UC Santa Cruz, bringing spirit to every studio and inspiring the budding artists he worked with. He believed in merging traditional techniques with contemporary flair in his own work and his teachings— forming this artistic praxis of Califas: two worlds brought together by envisioning a richly transcultural, and equitable, future.

About the Sesnon Gallery:

The Sesnon Gallery passionately integrates online programs and exhibitions into the lives of a broader community by encouraging interdisciplinary discourse through the lens of the arts.

Related events:**January 9, 2021, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (recorded event available on website)**

[The 3rd Annual Art of the State Symposium. Change = Action/Time: Generational Activism in Chicana and Latinx Art](#) presented by the Monterey Museum of Art.

Join Latinx and Chicana artists and scholars including MacArthur Fellow **Amalia Mesa-Bains**, renowned collector **Armando Durón**, and internationally recognized Chicana artist **Judith F. Baca Ph.D.** for personal accounts, live Q & A, and a live panel discussion with presenters, moderated by **Susana Smith Bautista, Ph.D.**

Online symposium presented by the Monterey Museum of Art.

January 28, 2021, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

[Rising From the Ashes: The Artistry and Perseverance of Moving Parts Press](#)

Online webinar event featuring artist **Felicia Rice** and UC Santa Cruz professors **T.J. Demos** and **Jennifer González**, in conversation about her work, the process of collaboration, and the power of artists' books to fuel our collective imaginations as we work to cultivate futures of social justice.

Hosted by the University Library in partnership with the UC Santa Cruz Institute of the Arts & Sciences.

February 17, 2021, 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. ([Register here](#))

[Community Resistance Against Erasure](#)

Join us in conversation with guest artists **Irene Juárez O'Connell** and **Victor Cervantes** and hear about their community-centered art practice, activism, and continued resistance against cultural erasure.

Hosted by the Mary Porter Sesnon Gallery.

February 24, 2021, 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. ([Register here](#))

[Feminism in Chicana and Latinx Art](#)

How have advances in Latinx representation fallen short in recognition of cultural misogyny? Join us in conversation with guest artists **Amy Díaz-Infante** and **Angelica Muro** to discuss intersectional feminism in Latinx art.

Hosted by the Mary Porter Sesnon Gallery.

This exhibition is sponsored by [Museo de Eduardo Carrillo](#) and the Arts Division at UC Santa Cruz.

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