

MEDIA ALERT

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**City of Los Angeles**

**Department of Cultural Affairs**

**Announces**

**Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery’s Exhibition,**

***Danila Cervantes: Laberintos de huesos floreciendo***

**March 6 to May 18, 2025**

*Opening reception, Sunday, March 9, 2025, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.*

Los Angeles— The **City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)** **Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG)** presents *Danila Cervantes: Laberintos de huesos floreciend﻿o*, an inaugural exhibition for Los Angeles based-artist Danila Cervantes, curated by Arts Associate Jennifer Payan.*Danila Cervantes*opens Thursday, March 6, 2025, to Sunday, May 18, 2025, the public is welcome to attend the opening reception on Sunday, March 9, 2025, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Cervantes’s works explore the profound interconnectedness between humans, animals, and nature, drawing inspiration from life cycles and behavioral parallels across species. Themes of decay, transformation and renewal are central to the exhibition, offering a poetic meditation on existence and the ways life emerges from endings. The agave plant serves as a poignant metaphor; as it dies, it produces a towering stalk from its core—its corazón—flowering to ensure the continuation of life. Similarly, the xenophora shell, which adopts foreign objects for protection, reflects themes of adaptation, identity, and environment. Other works reference natural phenomena like whale falls, where the lifeless body of a giant becomes a thriving habitat for deep-sea communities, and volcanic landscapes, where destruction gives way to fertile new beginnings.

Infused with personal narratives, they examine cycles through their border identity, queerness, and familial connections, grounding their vision in the interconnectedness of all living things. Through rich symbolism—their imagery conveys movement, transition, and a sense of belonging in flux. The works suggest surrendering to nature's cycles, embracing decay as a portal to growth, and finding home not in a single place but in a perpetual state of transformation.

LAMAG curator Nancy Meyer selected Danila Cervantes from *Open Call: Apophenia* (December 9, 2023, to March 16, 2024), an opportunity granted to two artists from that exhibition. Lisa Davis, DCA's Community Arts Director, commented, "Awarding solo exhibitions to artists who participated in the call for local artists for *Open Call* 2023 highlights the unique vision of LAMAG - to truly be a space with/for/by our community. We are thrilled to provide an opportunity for emerging Los Angeles artists to develop and workshop ideas in the project space galleries." Meyer felt a deep resonance with Danila's aesthetic, symbology, composition, and color palette, remarking, "I really enjoyed the organic paper and pigments they were working with and instantly felt a poignant contrast and juxtaposition at play."

**About the Artist**

Danila Cervantes (b.1996, San Diego, CA) is a queer Latinx interdisciplinary artist and educator based in Los Angeles, CA. They grew up on the border between Calexico and Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico. Its vast desert and mixed cultural landscape have always inspired their artwork. Personal myths and Mexican folktales spark colorful imagery that translates into illustrations and animations of tender creatures adapting to nature's cycles of life, death, and rebirth.

Cervantes graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design, where they studied film and animation. Their creative background and experience in visual arts inform their approach to education, fostering curiosity and love for creativity. With a deep belief in the power of art to heal and transform, they strive to create meaningful public programming and educational curricula that empower individuals to explore their artistic potential and embrace joy through self-expression.

They work as a teaching artist with various nonprofit arts organizations across Los Angeles, such as Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA), Craft Contemporary, and for DCA at Barnsdall Junior Art Center.

**About the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery**

The Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery’s (LAMAG) mission is to be responsive to the human experience. Established in 1954, LAMAG 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. Our 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 national and international art world, including Carlos Almaraz, Eleanor Antin, John Baldessari, Mark Bradford, Vija Celmins, Harry Gamboa Jr., David Hammons, Barbara Kruger, Kerry James Marshall, Senga Nengudi, Catherine Opie, Sandy Rodriguez, Ed Ruscha, and Bruce and Norman Yonemoto. 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 race, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, domestic partner status, marital status or medical condition.

*It is important that the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery prioritize respect for both the historic culture and the contemporary presence of indigenous peoples throughout California, and especially in the Los Angeles area. To that end, and particularly as a public and civic institution, we acknowledge that our gallery resides on what was historically the homeland of Kizh, Tongva, and Chumash peoples who were dispossessed of their land. If you would like to learn more about the land you are on please visit:* [*https://native-land.ca*](https://native-land.ca/)

For more information, please contact lamag@lacity.org or visit [lamag.org](http://culturela.org/) and follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/LAMAGBarnsdall> and Instagram [@lamagbarnsdall](https://www.instagram.com/lamagbarnsdall/).

The Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery is a facility of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs.

**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 grantmaking; 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 5 and cultural nonprofit organizations to provide excellent service in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles.

For more information, please visit culture.lacity.gov or follow us on Facebook at: facebook.com/culturela, Instagram @culture\_la, and Twitter @culture\_la.

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