

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Estamos contra el muro | We Are Against the Wall

September 9 – October 15, 2016

August 8, 2016, San Francisco, CA – Southern Exposure presents *Estamos contra el muro | We Are Against the Wall*, an exhibition by Sita Kuratomi Bhaumik in collaboration with Piñatas Las Morenitas Martínez, Little Piñata Maker, Cece Carpio (Trust Your Struggle), La Pelanga, People’s Kitchen Collective, and Norma Listman.

In this intensely divisive election season, Bhaumik and curator Michele Carlson produce a potent and nuanced response to our current social, political, and economic realities. A wall built of hand-crafted piñatas in the form of cinder blocks will dominate and divide the Southern Exposure gallery.

Walls and borders are built to protect, segregate, detain, and enact power. Donald Trump’s proposed border wall projects the perception of national unity and, conversely, ascribes otherness to those who lie beyond. But borders are porous, shifting, illusive. Divorced from geographical position, *Estamos contra el muro* highlights how every border wall is an imaginary.

Over the course of the exhibition, the wall will undergo a dramatic transformation that enacts the dynamic transactional nature of border sites. The opening reception on September 9 marks the completion of the wall’s construction with a Migration Mixtape by La Pelanga DJ collective, street food, and limited edition mini-piñatas by the Little Piñata Maker. Several days later, under cover of night, Cece Carpio of the collective Trust Your Struggle will intervene to tag and deface the wall. On September 22, the wall will serve as the literal backdrop for a public dialogue with artists and organizers working around the subject of borders. Finally, at the closing party on October 15, we will all come together to pummel the piñatas – celebrating the

destruction of the wall with a blow-by-blow narration by People’s Kitchen Collective, music by La Pelanga, and food to fuel our border crossings.

Like other political walls, the piñatas beg to be beaten down, pulverized by force, and left as a fetishized relic of times past. Bhaumik’s wall is not merely a narrative of division or a seductive solution to the problem of certain bodies. By questioning how one might unknowingly and unwittingly be complicit in its very construction, Bhaumik reminds us that, like these piñatas, all walls are built by hand.

ABOUT SITA KURATOMI BHAUMIK

Sita Kuratomi Bhaumik is an artist, writer, and educator who understands art as a strategy to connect personal and public histories. Her research focuses on decolonizing the hierarchy of the senses and the impact of migration. Raised in Los Angeles and based in Oakland, she is Indian and Japanese Colombian American. Sita holds a BA in Studio Art from Scripps College, an MFA in interdisciplinary art and an MA in Visual and Critical Studies from California College of the Arts. Bhaumik has exhibited, collaborated, and cooked extensively in the US, Mexico, and Europe. She is a founding member of the People’s Kitchen Collective in Oakland, California along with Jocelyn Jackson and Saqib Keval. Together, they produce community meals that narrate our shared struggle and resilience.

EVENT LISTING INFORMATION

What: *Estamos contra el muro | We Are Against the Wall*
A project by Sita Khuratomi Bhaumik in collaboration with Piñatas Las Morenitas Martínez, the Little Piñata Maker, Cece Carpio (Trust Your Struggle), La Pelanga, People’s Kitchen Collective, and Norma Listman.

When: September 9 – October 15, 2016
Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 12:00 – 6:00 PM
Location: Southern Exposure, 3030 20th Street, San Francisco
Cost: FREE

What: Opening Reception | Inauguración
Join us to mark the completion of the wall’s construction with a Migration Mixtape by La Pelanga DJ collective, street food, and limited edition mini-piñatas by the Little Piñata Maker.

When: Friday, September 9, 2016, 7:00 – 9:00 PM
Location: Southern Exposure, 3030 20th Street, San Francisco
Cost: FREE

What: Talk | Plática: Strategies Against the Wall
A public dialogue with artists and organizers about creative strategies for addressing migration, economics, and US border politics.

When: Thursday, September 22, 2016, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Location: Southern Exposure, 3030 20th Street, San Francisco
Cost: FREE

What: The Fall | La Caída: Community Demolition Party
Come together for a celebration of food, music, and destruction that crosses borders. People’s Kitchen Collective will narrate the demolition of the wall along with music by La

SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

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Pelanga. Chefs Norma Listman and Sita Kuratomi Bhaumik will prepare guajolotas, sandwiches stuffed with a tamal, to fuel a border crossing – or a border smashing. The demise of the wall culminates with a sweet handful of piñata candy.

When: Saturday, October 15, 2016, 4:00 – 6:00 PM
Location: Southern Exposure, 3030 20th Street, San Francisco
Cost: FREE

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ABOUT SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

Southern Exposure (SoEx) is an artist-centered non-profit organization committed to supporting visual artists. Through our extensive and innovative programming, SoEx strives to experiment, collaborate and further educate while providing an extraordinary resource center and forum for Bay Area and national artists in our Mission District space and off-site, in the public realm.

An active presence in the Bay Area since 1974, SoEx is continually evolving in response to the needs of artists and the community while engaging the public in artists' work. Central to our mission is to remain the most accessible space for visual artists to produce and present new work, learn, and connect. SoEx provides visual artists with the tools and resources they need to experiment in an open and supportive environment. We also work to advocate to new, diverse audiences and build an ever-growing community of enthusiasts and supporters of the visual arts.

For more information and images, contact Lisa Martin at (415) 863-2141 x102 or communications@soex.org. Southern Exposure is located at 3030 20th Street (at Alabama), San Francisco, CA 94110. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM and gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 12:00 – 6:00 PM. Admission is always FREE. Website: www.soex.org.

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