

At The Borderlands: Mitos | Memory
Silvia Gonzalez and Amy Reidel
Curated by Ann Meisinger

March 3-24th

Opening reception: Friday, March 3 6-9pm

Opening night Performance: 7:30pm

"The very act of writing then, conjuring/coming to 'see', what has yet to be recorded in history is to bring into consciousness what only the body knows to be true. The body - that site which houses the intuitive, the unspoken, the viscera of our being - this is the revolutionary promise of "theory in the flesh" – Gloria E. Anzaldúa

ACRE Projects is pleased to announce At The Borderlands: Mitos | Memory, an exhibition of new work by 2016 residents Silvia Gonzalez and Amy Reidel.

Gonzalez and Reidel utilize their two visually striking practices to contextualize love and loss through narratives built around myth, memory and material explorations. The works in the exhibition address the question of what is left in the wake of personal, cultural and environmental loss and the interdependent nature of both love and loss and of knowledge and creation.

This exhibition is accompanied by two workshops, information below:

Silvia Gonzalez is an Artist and Educator living in Chicago creating zines and curating workshops to address structures of power, imagination, play, confinement, and freedom. Collaborative justice based projects include work with local art groups such as the Chicago ACT (Artist Creating Transformation) collective and the 96 Acres Project, led by the Artist Maria Gaspar. Silvia Gonzalez has experience organizing educational workshops that centralize creative work with intergenerational participants interested in critically disrupting current power imbalances. As a multidisciplinary artist, she uses visual and performance work to make connections between justice work, education, histories of trauma, healing processes, Xicanidad, the Nepantla state, and the potentiality within the radical imaginary. She is the organizer of an artist group called POCAS, People of Color Artist Space and connects artists of color from across Chicago to resources and each other.

For the past ten years as a multi-media artist, Amy Reidel has found meaning in imagery of "the storm." As many throughout art history have done, Reidel uses the storm as a metaphor to signify emotional and physical conditions. She combines weather radar and color MRI's with seductive materials like glitter, friendship bracelets and colorful paint; symbols of love, celebration and joy. Reidel's chosen

scientific image bases inform each other formally and conceptually, even if it's only in a mythical capacity. Research has shown many visual similarities between imagery of the storms above and the "storms" (tumors) within. Through interpretative portrayals of changing atmospheric and bodily conditions, viewers can question these codes of danger and potentially see the beauty within them.

Ann Meisinger is a Chicago based curator and writer. She currently works at the assistant curator of public programs at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago.

Workshop 1: At the Borderlands: When The Personal is Political
Sunday, March 5th, 2-5 PM

ACT Collective Zine Making Workshop
Ivan Arenas, Amanda Cortes, William Estrada, Silvia Gonzalez, Juan Carlos Perez, and Vanessa Sanchez (Part of the ACT Collective)

What is the role of art in creating new narratives and building towards creative and radical possibility? How can zines be used as educational tools? What is the history of zines? What power comes with self-publishing?

ACT (Artists Creating Transformation) Collective created a zine in 2016 on toxic levels of lead found in Chicago Public Schools. Come work with us in compiling information for a new zine we are working on that addresses "Sanctuary." What is our role in defending or building a space of Sanctuary in our interpersonal relationships and collective political experiences?

Workshop 2: The Haunting of the In Between Space: Tracing Future Memories
Sunday, March 19th, 2-5 PM

Co-facilitated by: Ximena Ayon, William Camargo, Amanda Cortes, Michael de Anda Muñiz, and Silvia Gonzalez

*This workshop is intended to center POC artists and POC social movements. It will focus primarily on Chicax history.

"El pueblo que pierde su memoria pierde su destino" "A people that loses its memory forfeits its destiny" -Mexican Proverb

What haunts Xicanx work? In this workshop participants will learn about Chicax artists and the Chicano movement. How have Chicaxs used art in social movement work? What is the role of art in cultural preservation and historical reclamation? What memories are urgent to preserve? How do Xicanx use art to critique displacement and create new spaces of belonging? What role do mitos play in preserving and creating new stories to tell? What stories will haunt our future

generations? What is the destiny we are building for our future ancestors? During this workshop, participants will have a series of prompts to select from that include a listening station, collaging, zine making, redactive poetry/writing, and will be encouraged to share resulting works in progress with one another.