

For Immediate Release

Vernacular Glamour

Curated by Juan Omar Rodriguez

Cambridge Art Association announces its 2022 Platform Curatorial exhibition, *Vernacular Glamour*

Cambridge, MA, <June 15, 2021>—The Cambridge Art Association (CAA) is pleased to announce ***Vernacular Glamour***, curated by Juan Omar Rodriguez, to be held in January 2022 at its Kathryn Schultz Gallery.

This exhibit is part of our Platform Curatorial Opportunity series, an annual opportunity for emerging or established curators to explore a new curatorial idea in the CAA's Kathryn Schultz Gallery. Curators receive financial and institutional support from the CAA to realize their vision.

Platform was launched in 2019, with Patricia Miranda's thought-provoking exhibit, Material Lamentations: Art, Grief, and the Land. The focus of the exhibit was the impact of environmental change on female-identifying bodies and included artists from the Northeastern United States. The exhibit was featured in *The Ticket* in the Boston Globe. In 2020, invited curator Cathleen Daley presented Soft Shoulder, an exhibit of 10 artists using fiber in innovative and exploratory ways. The exhibit was "a flexible address of surface and structure." This exhibit was reviewed in Art New England magazine and The Boston Globe.

About Vernacular Glamour:

What is possible when glamour, grounded in quotidian experiences, is embraced, celebrated, and engaged critically? This exhibition brings together a cross-section of contemporary Latinx artists working with the visual vocabularies of camp, popular culture, high fashion, and baroque painting and architecture through vernacular idioms. Engaging the materials and forms of ball culture, advertising media, spiritual practices, and street art, the eight artists in *Vernacular Glamour* mobilize the artifice and exuberance of glamour to address the complexities of everyday life.

The artworks brought into conversation here reflect and reimagine what is familiar to queer, working class, and racialized peoples and often undervalued by majoritarian arbiters of taste. *Vernacular Glamour* focuses on figurative work to signal the ways in which the representation of certain bodies and experiences remains novel, controversial even. Through photography, painting, textiles, drawing, and video, the works in this exhibition unapologetically engage the experiences and desires of people who are Black and brown, curvy, fat, feminine, non-binary, and queer.

Exhibiting Artists

Juan Arango Palacios
Cielo Felix-Hernandez
Maria Yolanda Liebana
Perla Mabel

Chloe Luisa Piñero
Ginger Q
Rixy
Moises Salazar
Jhona Xaviera

About the Curator: Juan Omar Rodriguez (he/him) is a curator of contemporary art. He is a Curatorial Fellow at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA) in Philadelphia, PA. Juan Omar's recent projects include *Linger and Flow* at PAFA, *TBD* at Boston CyberArts in collaboration with the Boston LGBTQIA+ Artist Alliance, and *SMFA at Tufts: Juried Student Exhibition 2019–2020* at the MFA Boston. He received an M.A. in Art History and Museum Studies from Tufts University in 2019 and a B.A. in Neuroscience from Oberlin College in 2017.

About the Cambridge Art Association: CAA was founded in 1944 by a group of local artists and art supporters. At the time, there was no other local association like it. The CAA was a space for exhibiting work, learning new techniques, and socializing. It was - and is - above all, a community of artists.

Today, the CAA maintains two gallery spaces for exhibits, as well as several less traditional satellite spaces. Until mid-2015, we were a juried members association. As the result of a strategic plan and long-term vision for the CAA, we are now open to all.

What do we do? As an exhibition space, we create opportunities for regional artists to connect with monthly exhibition opportunities, in CAA maintained gallery spaces as well as non-traditional satellite venues. We create opportunities for local and regional contemporary artists to engage with gallery owners, curators, collectors, and each other through networking events, portfolio reviews, and other professional development programs. We also operate an Art Rental Program, connecting artists to local organizations for short-and-long-term display of work.

General Information + Transportation

Kathryn Schultz Gallery is located at 25R Lowell Street, Cambridge, MA. Gallery hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-5pm. Free and open to the public.

The Gallery is accessible via the 71 and 73 buses from the Harvard Square MBTA stop. Parking is available in the lot at 25 Lowell Street, at metered parking spots on Mount Auburn Street, and at the Mount Auburn Hospital Garage.

Press Contacts

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Learn more at cambridgeart.org