



RUIZ-HEALY ART

Latinx, Latin America, & Texas Contemporary Art

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Margarita Cabrera: Engendering New Landscapes
Opening Reception: Thursday, September 12, 6:00-8:00 PM
74 East 79th Street, 2D, New York City, NY 10075
Catalogue with Essay by Joseph Wolin

Ruiz-Healy Art is delighted to present Margarita Cabrera, *Engendering New Landscapes*, opening Thursday, September 12th with an artist reception from 6 to 8 PM. The exhibition will feature the artist's signature sewn soft sculptures from the *Space in Between* series depicting desert cacti, as well as a new series titled *Pepita Para El Loro Para Que Hable o Calle*. The sculptural pieces will be in dialogue with new works on paper comprised of collage with United States border patrol uniform fabric, and cochineal dye drawings. Limited-edition prints related to some of her collaborative community work such as *UPLIFT* and *Craft of Resistance* will also be on display.

Cabrera was born in México but grew up in El Paso, Texas. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts degree at Hunter College, City University of New York. From a young age, Cabrera was introduced to Mexican craft and folk-art traditions and as a student at Hunter College was educated in visual aesthetics rooted in the Western Canon, both of which have had a heavy influence in her artistic work. In recent years, Margarita Cabrera has split her practice between her individual work and art collaborations. Cabrera's art collaborations produce work that engages communities through transformative practices on both sides of the Mexico/United States border and has served as an active investigation into the challenges facing immigrant communities such as fair and safe working conditions and economic and cultural empowerment.

Space in Between is a socially engaged community collaboration inspired by the word *Nepantla*, a Nahuatl Aztec term meaning "the space in the middle" where marginalized cultures create strategies for survival. Late scholar, activist, and author of *Borderlands/La Frontera*, Gloria Anzaldúa states that *Nepantla* refers to the process of creating alternative spaces to live, function, or create, particularly in the United States/Mexico borderlands. Sewn out of United States border patrol uniforms, the *Space in Between* sculptures represent various life-size cacti native in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. The surface of these collaborative works features embroidery crafted by immigrant workers that relay compelling border crossing stories that share with the audience a true and honest depiction of immigrant communities.



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The *Space in Between* cacti sculptures will be in dialogue with Cabrera's most recent United States border patrol uniform sculpture series, *Pepita Para El Loro Para Que Hable o Calle* whose title is inspired by an old Mexican saying that translates to "A nugget for the parrot so that it speaks or stays quiet." This new series represents the endangered species of Mexican parrots who are at risk of extinction due to their legal import into the American pet trade. Cabrera's invitation to initiate a mimicking interaction between the talking parrot sculptures with their audience introduces a satirical light on complicity in a dehumanizing enterprise and instills the question of its origin in all who are present.

Cabrera's *UPLIFT* print series will also be showcased. The printed editioned work corresponds to a 2015 public art sculpture commissioned by the City of El Paso that addressed the overcoming of violence along the Mexico/United States border. Citizens of El Paso and Juarez attended the community workshops and drew personal motifs in papel picado (cut paper) for the representation of 600 sculptural birds. The designs were translated into cut-metal with welded fragments of confiscated guns donated by the local Sheriff. *UPLIFT* represents a flock of birds beginning to take flight. The project is ongoing, and it is Cabrera's hope that the sculpture will find a home in its intended location in El Paso.

About Ruiz-Healy Art

Ruiz-Healy Art was founded in 2004 in San Antonio, Texas by Patricia Ruiz-Healy, Ph. D. and in 2019, a second location was opened in New York City. The gallery represents Latin American, Latinx, and Texas-based mid-career and established artists. Ruiz-Healy Art specializes in presenting conceptual art that reflects the complicated identity and social issues of our time as well as artworks pertaining to a geometric abstraction aesthetic. The gallery is proud to be the exclusive representative of the Estate of Chuck Ramirez. As member dealers of the International Fine Print Dealers Association (IFPDA), Ruiz-Healy Art demonstrates a high level of expertise and adhere to a strict code of conduct with professional integrity.

Margarita Cabrera: Engendering New Landscapes will be on view from
September 12 to November 2, 2019