



Third Space Gallery presents new exhibition, “Flowers for Here”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Third Space Gallery, founded by ArtsWave 2022 Black and Brown Artist Program grant recipient Lorena Molina to support and highlight BIPOC artists, is proud to present works by BATRES GILVIN, CHRISTIAN CASAS and Sarah Rodriguez. The trio of artists work in material-based responses to heritage, nostalgia and culture-striking motifs. They come together for the exhibition, “**Flowers for Here,**” which will show a range of works, some participatory, that question cultural traditions, subvert expectations and honor the past and present while building a more tender, playful and just future.

The community is invited to attend a free opening celebration Saturday, July 16, from 6-8 p.m. at 2868 Colerain Avenue.

Emerging between the celebratory and the critical, artists BATRES GILVIN and Casas challenge tradition, address stigmas and acknowledge traumas embedded in our heritage. Rodriguez completes “Flowers for Here” by exploring tangible memory, building vignettes of home out of paper and pastel.

Unlearning cultural expectations is a difficult and turbulent process. Taking care of ourselves and each other in the in-between is necessary. In the process of healing, how do we preserve beautiful moments otherwise lost to time and trauma? How can we reconcile the past, present, and future? “Flowers for Here” is a learning and healing space, with the hope that we might return to child-like wonder and joy for the memories we create.

BATRES GILVIN is an artist collaborative in Greater Cincinnati comprised of Karla Batres and Bradly Gilvin, life partners who met in 2011 while studying at the Art Academy of Cincinnati. In a multiethnic partnership that joins the personal with the professional,

Batres' Mexican American heritage and Gilvin's Southern American roots are a catalyst for complicated conversations about difference, otherness and identity. In their Morning View, KY studio located on the Gilvin family farm and homestead, BATRES GILVIN explores the local and global implications of immigration. Their artistic work is informed as much by larger political conversations as it is by life on the farm and daily interactions with Bradley and Karla's immediate and extended family. In BATRES GILVIN's artistic work, art becomes life and vice versa. As a multiethnic collaborative, their work is a study in contradictions. Playful irreverence exists alongside unflinching solemnity. An unsparing commentary on the inequities of US immigration policy is wrapped in sparkly, kitschy imagery, providing a sugar-coated dose of truth serum, Mexican American style. In BATRES GILVIN's world, contradiction is both material and tool; it is also a reminder of the complexity of humans and the necessity of holding space for difficult conversations.

CHRISTIAN CASAS is a first-generation Cuban American from Hialeah, Florida. Casas' curiosity about economic accessibility and labor connected to art making is an effort to bridge gaps and collapse class boundaries in order to question conventions about objects and accessibility of art and education. He uses found objects, family archives, video, pyrographed wood, sound, photography and printmaking to explore intergenerational memory, selfhood and erasure within identity. He engages in decolonization as a mechanism for healing trauma, flaying open a physical space where unlearning, remembrance, and relearning is possible.

SARAH RODRIGUEZ was born and raised in Ohio and is currently living and working as an artist and art educator in Cincinnati, OH. Her work is a series of tangible memories, investigating human connectedness with space, nature and relationships. The root of her practice can be shared through things familiar. Everyday objects and encounters present themselves, honest and beautiful, spurring a need to gather each one. Whether for interest or love, she archives those fleeting moments. She works across mediums to explore the way touch alters materials. Choosing materials that have an emphasis on tactility. Discovering commonalities in our shared experiences is the connectedness she seeks.

Third Space Gallery is founded on the goal to promote a welcome and open community for artists and creatives that are otherwise marginalized. They foster an open and safe environment for all. Their mission is to provide a safe space for BIPOC artists and creatives, facilitate open discussion and have community engagement by their own rules and say. Located in Camp Washington, Third Space supports and highlights BIPOC artists in Cincinnati. Founder Lorena Molina was one of twenty-two BIPOC artists who received a 2022 Black and Brown Artist Program grant from ArtsWave,

ArtsWave, a nonprofit serving the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Region, is the engine for the arts. Strong funding for the arts has allowed Cincinnati's arts and culture scene to become a national draw and regional asset, creating a wave of economic and community benefits. Each year, ArtsWave supports the work of over 150 arts organizations, school outreach programs, festivals, community centers, neighborhoods and various collaborations through impact-based grants. In 2022, ArtsWave awarded 22 Black and Brown Artist Grants to projects like this one that explore the themes of "truth and reconciliation." Funding comes from ArtsWave in partnership with the City of Cincinnati, Duke Energy, Macy's, the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati, Hard Rock Casino and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. You can support efforts like these by making a gift to ArtsWave at artswave.org/give.

INFORMATION:

Third Space Gallery is located at 2868 Colerain Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45225.

Please join us at the opening celebration for "Flowers for Here," on July 16, 2022, from 6-8 PM.