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Hallie Ford Museum of Art at Willamette University

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Exhibition website (English): <http://willamette.edu/go/george-rodriguez>

Exhibition website (Español): <http://willamette.edu/go/george-rodriguez-espanol>

Presione soltar (Español): <http://willamette.edu/go/rodriguez-presione-soltar>

Bilingual exhibition celebrates the ceramics of George Rodriguez

SALEM, Ore. — The Hallie Ford Museum of Art (HFMA) at Willamette University is pleased to present a bilingual exhibition featuring the figurative ceramic sculptures of Seattle artist George Rodriguez (American, born 1982). “George Rodriguez: Embellished Narratives” has been organized by HFMA Curator of Collections and Exhibitions, Jonathan Bucci, and features works created by the artist over the past 10 years. The exhibition opens June 8 in the Melvin Henderson-Rubio Gallery and continues through August 25, 2019.

Ideas of ceremony, ritual, and cross-cultural mythology all combine in Rodriguez’s bold yet whimsical artwork. Inspired by childhood memories from El Paso, Texas, international travel, border politics, and the history of art, his richly decorated sculptures draw the viewer in with a mixture of humor and gravity addressing concepts of community and identity in our global culture.

Included in the exhibition are works based on quinceañeras dresses; portraits of the artist as famous Georges - including George Washington and Boy George; a nine-member mariachi band that stretches over 20 feet long and stands eight feet high that doubles as the border wall; and a Mexican version of the zodiac featuring animals indigenous to Mexico.

In collaboration with Instituto de Cultura Oregoniana of Salem, a Salem organization that promotes Spanish-speaking culture, the HFMA is pleased to invite our Latino community, which represents approximately 20% of our Salem population, to enjoy this exhibition through bilingual text panels, and several bilingual events.

Bucci said, “Community outreach is an important part of our mission at HFMA and we want all people from Salem to feel at home and see themselves in the artwork we exhibit.”

Rodriguez will present a complimentary public lecture in English at 5 p.m. on June 8 in the Paulus Lecture Hall at the Willamette University College of Law. Additional complementary events at the museum include Tuesday Gallery Talks in English with Jonathan Bucci at 12:30 p.m. on June 11 and August 13, as well as the museum’s free admission Family Activity Day on June 22 between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. From 11:30 to 2:30, Seattle artist George Rodriguez will create an altar for the Salem community — visitors are invited to make offerings and other objects out of clay to add to the sculpture. Rodriguez will also lead tours of the exhibition in Spanish at 11:00 a.m. and in English at

2:30 p.m. To add to the festivities Salem's own father and son duo, Erik and David Rodríguez, will perform at noon and 1:00 pm, featuring songs in Spanish and English.

Rodriguez earned a BFA from University of Texas, El Paso and an MFA from the University of Washington, Seattle. His work is included in collections of the Bellevue Art Museum (Bellevue, WA), Swedish Medical Center (Seattle, WA), and the National Museum of Mexican Art (Chicago, IL). Rodriguez was named one of six "Emerging Artists for 2019" by the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts.

Financial support for this exhibition has been provided by general operating support grants from the City of Salem's Transient Occupancy Tax funds and the Oregon Arts Commission.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

About the Hallie Ford Museum of Art

Oregon's third largest art museum features works by Pacific Northwest and Native American artists, and includes a diverse collection of traditional European, American and Asian art, as well as artifacts that date from antiquity. Frequently changing exhibitions include lectures, special events, tours, artist demonstrations and educational opportunities for children and adults.

The museum is located at 700 State St. in Salem. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. The galleries are closed on Monday. General admission is \$6, \$4 for seniors and \$3 for students 18 and older. Students 17 and under and children are admitted free. Admission is free for everyone on Tuesdays. For more information call 503-370-6855 or visit willamette.edu/go/hfma.

HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES

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For assistance contact Andrea Foust [503-370-6867](tel:503-370-6867) or at afoust@willamette.edu.



Sophia Agtarap, "Portrait of George Rodriguez"

| [A high resolution version is available upon request by calling 503-370-6867 or email afoust@willamette.edu](mailto:afoust@willamette.edu) |



George Rodriguez (American, b. 1982), "El Zodíaco Metálico," 2019, ceramic with glaze, private collection. Photo: Foster/White Gallery

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George Rodriguez (American, b. 1982), "We The People," 2017, ceramic with glaze, 44 x 21 x 16 in., private collection. Photo: Foster/White Gallery
| [A high resolution version is available upon request by calling 503-370-6867 or email afoust@willamette.edu](mailto:afoust@willamette.edu) |



George Rodriguez (American, b. 1982), "Mykyta," 2016, ceramic with underglaze and glaze, 17 x 13 x 15 in., courtesy of the artist and the Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA. Photo: Foster/White Gallery
| [A high resolution version is available upon request by calling 503-370-6867 or email afoust@willamette.edu](mailto:afoust@willamette.edu) |



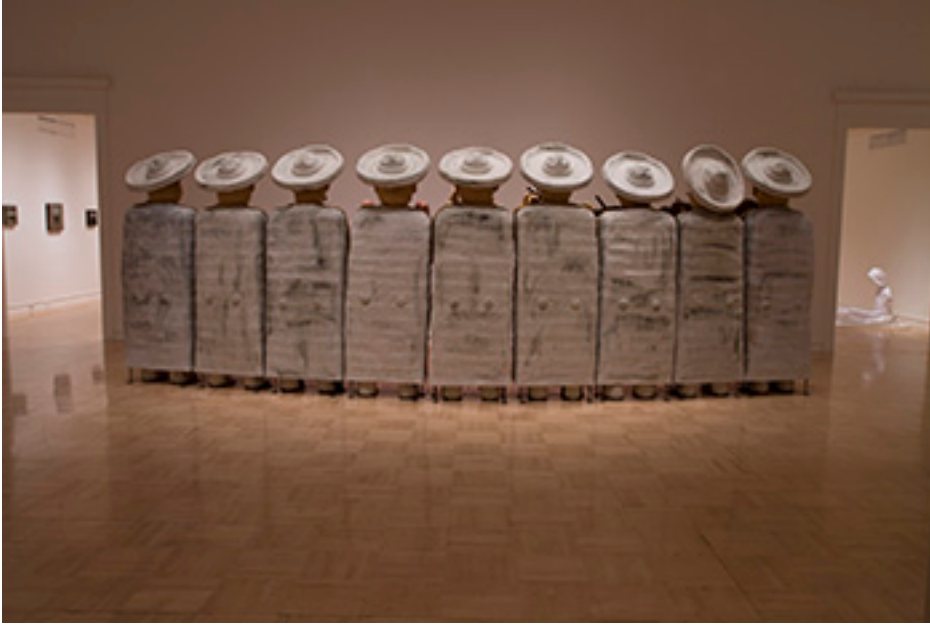
George Rodriguez (American, b. 1982), "Confetti," 2012, ceramic with glaze and acrylic, 28 x 28 x 28 in., courtesy of the artist and the Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA. Photo: George Rodriguez

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George Rodriguez (American, b. 1982), "Boy," 2011, ceramic with glaze, 20.5 x 16.5 x 15 in., private collection. Photo: Foster/White Gallery

| [A high resolution version is available upon request by calling 503-370-6867 or email afoust@willamette.edu](mailto:afoust@willamette.edu) |



George Rodriguez (American, b. 1982), "Instrumental Divide" (back), 2009, ceramic with glaze, steel and vinyl, 95 x 294 x 40 in., private collection. Photo: George Rodriguez | [A high resolution version is available upon request by calling 503-370-6867 or email afoust@willamette.edu](mailto:afoust@willamette.edu) |



George Rodriguez (American, b. 1982), "Instrumental Divide" (front), 2009, ceramic with glaze, steel and vinyl, 95 x 294 x 40 in., private collection. Photo: George Rodriguez | [A high resolution version is available upon request by calling 503-370-6867 or email afoust@willamette.edu](mailto:afoust@willamette.edu) |

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY

Interviews can be arranged with George Rodriguez by calling [503-370-6867](tel:503-370-6867) (English) or calling [503-370-6537](tel:503-370-6537) (Spanish) or emailing museum-art@willamette.edu (English and Spanish)

EXHIBITION WEBSITE

English: willamette.edu/go/george-rodriguez

Spanish: willamette.edu/go/george-rodriguez-espanol