



HONORARY DOCTORATE CITATION ENRIQUE MARTINEZ CELAYA

Enrique, your encyclopedic curiosity has attracted you to many disciplines, including art and art history, literature, existential philosophy, poetry, and quantum physics. You have published scientific papers on superconductivity and lasers, and you are the inventor of several patented laser devices, but you are also known for your paintings, sculptures and installations. You studied applied physics and electrical engineering as an undergraduate student at Cornell University before earning an M.S. in quantum electronics at Berkeley. Although you eventually left the world of science for the world of art, earning an M.F.A. from the University of California, Santa Barbara, science and nature are evident in the processes and content of your studio work. As an intellectual humanist, you explore the interconnection of, and friction between, all things, and in fact, you have described your studio as “a mixture between a laboratory and a monastery.”

Wonderment began early in your life, when your family moved from your birthplace in Cuba to Spain, and then to Puerto Rico. There, during the turbulent cultural and political environment of the 1970s, you apprenticed at the age of 12 with a painter, and began a life-long interest in writing and philosophy, which became the primary sources for your art. Your paintings and sculptures, which sit between representation and abstraction, are like poems and memories in which clichés become archetypes: a boy floats in a boat in the dark, a black bird flies above a black ocean under a star-filled sky, a young girl places her foot on a dead shark, a horseless golden sleigh sits still, a black dog delivers a basket of apples, a boy on crutches carries a house on his back. Notable arts institutions around the world, including the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the State Hermitage Museum, the Phillips Collection, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, have wisely added your work to their permanent collections.

Otis College recognizes your unique ability to pose thoughtful philosophical questions about the nature of the world and our existence within it. In recognition of your exceptional interdisciplinary curiosity and vision, we are pleased and honored to confer upon you the degree of

**DOCTOR OF FINE ARTS,
HONORIS CAUSA.**



BE IT KNOWN THAT BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY GRANTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF OTIS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, THE COLLEGE DOES HEREBY CONFER UPON

ENRIQUE MARTINEZ CELAYA

DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF FINE ARTS

HONORIS CAUSA

FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP
IN THE ARTS

Further, the College declares him entitled to all the rights, privileges, and immunities pertaining to the degree.

In witness whereof the Chair of the Board of Trustees and President of Otis College of Art and Design have hereunto set their hands in California on this tenth day of May in the year two thousand twenty.

MEI-LEE NEY, CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RANDALL LAVENDER, INTERIM PRESIDENT