

# OTIS

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**Otis College of Art and Design's Ben Maltz Gallery Presents:**



**Bridging Homeboy Industries: Fabian Debora, Alex Kizu, and Juan Carlos Muñoz Hernandez**  
*A group exhibition of three dynamic artists who share roots in Homeboy Industries*

LOS ANGELES, CA - October, 2012 – The Ben Maltz Gallery continues to present new work by artists in the SoCal region with the three-person exhibition ***Bridging Homeboy Industries: Fabian Debora, Alex Kizu, and Juan Carlos Muñoz Hernandez*** on view January 2 – March 23, 2013. Guest Curator: Annie Buckley (MFA 2003). Reception: Saturday, January 26, 4pm-6pm

***Bridging Homeboy Industries*** features the work of **Fabian Debora, Alex Kizu, and Juan Carlos Muñoz Hernandez**, three working artists who share roots in the East L.A. neighborhood of Boyle Heights, a close-knit community beset by poverty and violence. Though their paths and practices are unique, each has benefited from the services of [Homeboy Industries](http://HomeboyIndustries.com), the largest gang intervention program in the nation. Founded as a jobs program by **Father Gregory Boyle** in 1992, Homeboy Industries continues to thrive as a network of successful businesses supported and run by former gang members. Two decades on, Debora, Kizu, and Muñoz Hernandez all count Father Boyle—or G, as he is fondly referred to by many—as a mentor, supporter, and friend. He is the person who saw in them the artists they would become and who fostered a sense of hope and possibility for them during times when these were scarce. This encouragement, combined with their own relentless passion for art, fed their development as artists.

*“During what G [Father Greg Boyle] calls the ‘decade of death’, I got into a lot of trouble, but Father Greg, no matter what I did, was always encouraging me to do my art. ... I felt hopeless, but G would hire us to do murals and artwork, and now I realize that those acts of faith helped me to overcome many of the obstacles that I faced as a youth.” —Alex Kizu*

**Fabian Debora**, who is now a staff-member at Homeboy Industries, makes compellingly honest paintings influenced by Chicano and contemporary representational art. **Alex Kizu's** color-infused canvases feature variations on the highly complex and ornate graffiti lettering he learned as a boy from local street artists and knowledge gained as a recent graduate of the Art Department of California State University, Northridge (CSUN). **Juan Carlos Muñoz Hernandez's** bronze sculptures and spray paint and marker paintings fuse graffiti with diagrammatic architectural drawings and grow out of an 18-year apprenticeship with the sculptor Robert Graham and a background in street art. This exhibition includes several works by each artist and a new, large-scale collaborative mural.

This exhibition is organized by the Ben Maltz Gallery at Otis College of Art and Design with Guest Curator Annie Buckley. Buckley (Otis MFA '03) is an interdisciplinary artist, author, art critic, and Assistant Professor of Visual Studies at California State University, San Bernardino. She thanks OTIS Ben Maltz Gallery, Homeboy Industries, and Alice Buckley for their support in the presentation of this exhibition.

**Exhibition Programs:**

**Public Reception: Saturday, January 26, 2013, 4pm-6pm, Free** with live music by [Incendio](#)

**Conversation: Saturday, February 9, 2013, 11am-12pm, Free**

Stories and conversation with Father Gregory Boyle, Founder of Homeboy Industries, Homegirl Café, and author of the award winning book [Tattoos on the Heart](#) (2010).

**Bus Tour: Saturday, February 23, 9am-4pm, \$25**

Exhibition curator and artists lead a tour of Homeboy Industries with brunch at Homegirl Café, and present and discuss two significant murals created by the artists in the neighborhood. Contact Otis Continuing Education to register: [otisce@otis.edu](mailto:otisce@otis.edu) or (310) 665-6850.

**Gallery Tour: Saturday, March 2, 11am-12pm, Free** Gallery walk-through with curator and artists

**Location:** Otis College of Art and Design, 9045 Lincoln Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045

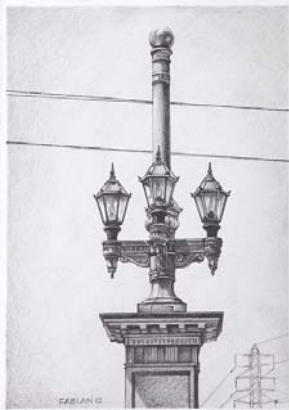
**Parking & Admission:** Free. Visitor parking in structure on La Tijera.

**Hours:** Tue-Sat 10am-5pm / Thu 10am-7pm. Closed Sundays & Mondays

**Gallery Tours:** 310.665.6909 to schedule tours for school, museum or other groups

**Gallery Info:** 310.665.6905, [galleryinfo@otis.edu](mailto:galleryinfo@otis.edu), [www.otis.edu/benmaltzgalleries](http://www.otis.edu/benmaltzgalleries)

**About Otis:** Founded in Los Angeles in 1918, Otis College of Art and Design prepares diverse students of art and design to enrich the world through their creativity, their skill, and their vision. The College offers an interdisciplinary education for 1200 full-time students, awarding BFA degrees in Advertising, Architecture/Landscape/Interiors, Digital Media, Fashion Design, Illustration, Graphic Design, Product Design, Painting, Photography, Sculpture/New Genres, and Toy Design; and MFA degrees in Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Public Practice, and Writing. Continuing Education offers certificate programs as well as personal and professional development courses. Additional information is available at <http://www.otis.edu>.



Top of page: *Transformation of Spirits Exposed*, 2012, a collaborative painting by all three artists. Bottom of page L-R: Fabian Debra, *Distinctions*, 2012; *Strength (Mother)*, 2012; Alex Kizu, *Eternal Warrior*, 2011; *Speaking in Tongues*, 2012; Juan Carlos Muñoz Hernandez, *Witness #3*, 2012; *El color del espíritu*, 2012