

# OTIS

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BijaRi, *Contando con Nosotros*, 2011. Video still.

Otis College of Art and Design's Ben Maltz Gallery is pleased to present as part of  
**the Getty's Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA initiative:**

## *Talking to Action*

**An exhibition and bilingual publication that investigates contemporary  
community-based social art practices in Latin America and Los Angeles**

LOS ANGELES – January 2017 – The Ben Maltz Gallery at Otis College of Art and Design is pleased present the exhibition and bilingual publication *Talking to Action*, on view September 16 – December 10, 2017, with an opening reception on Saturday, September 16, 4–6pm. As part of the Getty's *Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA* initiative, Ben Maltz Gallery is pleased to be one of the select arts organizations across Southern California to receive the prestigious grant to present groundbreaking exhibitions and programs highlighting different aspects of Latin American and Latino art in dialogue with and within Los Angeles.

*Talking to Action* investigates contemporary community-based social art practices in Latin America and Los Angeles, and features a range of practices that blur the lines between object making, political and environmental activism, community organizing, and performance art, through the work of contemporary artists and collectives from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, and the U.S. Mirroring the educational imperative found in many of the practices, and Otis College's commitment to teaching and investigating Social Practice, *Talking to Action* leans on the history of critical pedagogy and dialogically-driven community organizing efforts from Latin America. Those collective pedagogical efforts were greatly influential to generations of artists and activists throughout the hemisphere through the work of Paolo Freire and others.

The social practice artists included in *Talking to Action* address critical issues such as migration and memory, critical spatial mapping, environmental issues, gender rights and legislation, indigenous knowledge, and racial violence. The exhibition will feature a diverse array of projects, such as an exchange of correspondence between Buenos Aires-based artist Eduardo Molinari and Los Angeles artist Sandra de la Loza as they research the archives and history of the production of space and landscape in their respective cities; the work of the Mexican collective SEFT (Sonda de Exploración Ferroviaria Tripulada), which created a playfully futuristic vehicle to explore disused railroads in order to

map the history of capital development in their country; and São Paulo-based Frente 3 de Fevereiro, who use cartography, film, and urban intervention to trace the violent lineage of “exporting” militarization and social control of Afro communities within the historic conflicts in Medellín, Colombia, to the favelas of Rio de Janeiro, and the natural disasters in Port au Prince, Haiti.

*Talking to Action* curator Bill Kelley, Jr. (Lead Researcher and Curator) is a writer and scholar of community-based practices in the Americas. During the first two years of research, Kelley led a team of researchers from 6 different cities in the Americas to inquire into the issues and artist methods that connect the various cities in the hemisphere. The *Talking to Action* team that includes Karen Moss, consulting curator and Interim Chair of Otis Graduate Public Practice, and Independent Curators International (ICI), builds upon the scholarship of Otis's history of supporting community-based education and curatorial programming. Otis College hosts the Graduate Public Practice MFA program, founded by Suzanne Lacy, as well as the ACT (Artists, Community and Teaching) and Creative Learning programs that combine project-based courses and multidisciplinary community partnerships. In 2010, as part of the Getty's original Pacific Standard Time initiative, the Ben Maltz Gallery at Otis College presented *Doin' It in Public: Feminism and Art at the Woman's Building* tracing the groundbreaking artwork and community-based efforts of feminist artists and art cooperatives that were centered in and around the Los Angeles Woman's Building (downtown L.A.) in the 1970s and 1980s.

*Talking to Action* will tour in the United States and Latin America and will be accompanied by the bilingual publication *Talking to Action: Dialogue, Learning, and Art in the Americas*, co-published by the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and distributed by University of Chicago Press. The publication includes essays by the research team of María Fernanda Cartagena, David Gutiérrez Castañeda, Andre Mesquita, Bill Kelley, Jr., Jennifer Ponce de León, Lucia Sanromán, Paulina Varas, and UC San Diego scholar Grant Kester. These scholars have been involved in the deep research and development of the dialogue between the social practices in each hemisphere during the research phase of the *Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA* grant.

*Talking to Action* will be accompanied by a range of public programs including, screenings, lectures, and artist interventions, as well as incorporation into Otis College curriculums at many levels and sites on campus.

More information can be found at <https://www.otis.edu/ben-maltz-gallery/upcoming-exhibitions>.

**Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA** led by the Getty, Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA is a far-reaching and ambitious exploration of Latin American and Latino art in dialogue with Los Angeles taking place across Southern California from September 2017 through January 2018.



**PACIFIC  
STANDARD  
TIME: LA/LA**

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the Getty with arts  
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Captions (left to right):

Frente 3 de Fevereiro, *Zumbi Somos Nós*. Performance at the Estádio Pacaembú during the Brazilian Soccer Championship on November 20, 2005 (Black Awareness/Consciousness Day). Photo: Peetssa. Courtesy of the artists.

Alfadir Luna, *El Señor del Maíz*, 2011, Chromogenic print, 90 x 120 cm, Colección Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Monterrey, Photo: Ana Ortiz.

Ivan Puig and Andrés Padilla Domene, *SEFT-1* [Sonda de Exploración Ferroviaria Tripulada], 2006-2011. Photo courtesy of the artists.

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