

# LUIS DE JESUS LOS ANGELES

1110 Mateo Street, Los Angeles CA 90021  
213 395 0762 | gallery@luisdejesus.com  
luisdejesus.com

## KARLA DIAZ

Born 1976, Los Angeles, CA  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

## EDUCATION

- 2003 MFA, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA
- 1999 BA, California State University, Los Angeles, CA
- 1998 Hunter College, New York, NY

## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *YA MERO*, The Latinx Project at NYU, New York, NY
- 2025 *Mal de Ojo*, Luis De Jesus Los Angeles, CA
- 2024 *Mujer Valiente y Los Diablitos*, Luis De Jesus Los Angeles, CA  
*Wait 'til Your Mother Gets Home*, 18th Street Arts Center, Santa Monica, CA
- 2022 *Karla Diaz: While You Were Sleeping*, California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco, CA
- 2021 *Karla Diaz: Insomnia*, Luis De Jesus Los Angeles, CA
- 2018 *Unfamiliar Family*, Los Angeles, CA
- 2012 *West is More*, curated by Veronica Martinez, Los Angeles, CA
- 2011 *Bucket Brigade: Hip Hop Opera*, Sur Biennial, curated by Robert Miller, Los Angeles, CA
- 2009 *Engagement Party Series*, Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Los Angeles, CA  
*Slanguage this!*, Institute for Contemporary Art, Boston, MA

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *DOLORES Multigenerational Conversation Celebrating Dolores Huerta*, Plaza de la Raza, Los Angeles, CA  
*Let Us Gather in a Flourishing Way*, curated by Andrea Alvarez, Buffalo AKG Art Museum, Buffalo, NY  
*Politics of Portrayal*, Mesa College Art Gallery, San Diego, CA
- 2025 *Where Memory Wanders*, Los Angeles Mission College Art Gallery, Sylmar CA
- 2024 *Get in the Game: Sports and Contemporary Culture*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA), San Francisco, CA
- 2023 *The Politics of Portrayal: Three Generations of Chicana Portraiture in Los Angeles*, Avenue 50 Studio, Los Angeles, CA
- 2022 *Lucha Libre: Beyond the Arenas*, curated by Julio Cesar Morales, Arizona State University Museum, Tuscan, AZ  
*Figurative Vocabularies, Recent Acquisitions from the Collection*, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, San Diego, CA  
*We Run Things, Things Don't Run We*, Slanguage, Los Angeles, CA  
*Painting: New Approaches*, Pomona College Chan Gallery, Claremont, CA  
*Southland 2*, curated by Patrick Martinez, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018 *Prison Narratives*, Pitzer College Art Gallery, Claremont, CA
- 2016 *Mini Art Museum*, LAXART, Hollywood, CA
- 2015 *To Live and Dine in L.A., Prison Garment* installation, Los Angeles Public Library, Los Angeles, CA
- 2013 *Psychic Outlaws*, Cal State University Los Angeles Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*The Past is Present*, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, Detroit, MI  
*Around the Table: Food, Creativity, and Community*, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA
- 2012 *Los Angeles Biennial: Made in L.A.*, organized by the Hammer Museum in collaboration with LAXART, Los Angeles, CA
- 2011 *Possible Worlds: Mario Ybarra Jr., Karla Diaz, and Slanguage Studio Select from the Permanent Collections*, LACMA, Los Angeles, CA
- 2010 *Invisible Cities*, curated by Kris Kuramitsu and Christopher Miles, Madrid, ES

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- 2008 *Let Them Eat This!*, "Prison Garment" curated by Fallen Fruit, LACMA, Los Angeles, CA  
2008 *Zero One Biennial*, Space 47 Gallery, San Jose, CA  
2007 *Prague Biennial 3*, Prague, CZ  
2006 *California Biennial*, Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA  
*Police and Thieves*, curated by Jens Hoffman, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL  
2005 *Uncertain States of America*, curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist, Daniel Birnbaum, and Gunnar B. Kvaran, Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art, Oslo, NO; traveling to Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College, New York, NY; Serpentine Gallery, London, UK; Moscow Biennale, Moscow, RU; CCA Warsaw, PL; Le Musée de Serignan, Serignan, FR; Galerie Rudolfinum, Prague, CZ; and Songzhuang Art Centre, Beijing, CN

## SELECTED PROJECTS/PERFORMANCES

- 2026 *Unity Project*, Candlewood Arts Festival, Santa Monica, CA  
2016 *Prison Gourmet*, the Wignall Museum of Contemporary Art, Rancho Cucamonga, CA  
2015 *Fearless! (Except When Riding a Rollercoaster)*, Pasadena, CA  
2014 *Box and Draw*, Honor Fraser Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
2013 *Thumb Wrestling*, Torrance Art Museum, Torrance, CA  
*My Immigrant*, Santa Ana CA, Dia Del Nino, in collaboration with C.H.I.R.L.A (Coalition for Human Immigrants Rights Los Angeles), Los Angeles, CA  
*World's Worst Words*, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, Los Angeles, CA  
2012 *My L.A. and Artists Anonymous*, performances for Made in L.A. Biennial, Los Angeles, CA  
*Actions Speak Louder than Talk*, Creative Time, New York, NY  
2011 *Bucket Brigade: Hip Hop Opera*, performance and multimedia installation, part of *Sur Biennial*, Cerritos College, Los Angeles, CA  
*...like a cow visiting a butcher shop*, performance ARCO Fair, Madrid, ES  
2010 *Prison Gourmet*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, CA  
2009 *Dislexicon: A word Performance, Engagement Party*, MOCA, Los Angeles, CA  
*Where I'm From*, part of *Performing Economies*, Los Angeles, CA  
2008 *Zero One Biennial*, Space 47 Gallery, San Jose, CA  
2006 *The Peacock Doesn't See His Own Ass: Let's Twitch Again! Operation Birdwatching London*, Serpentine Gallery, London, U.K. performance/new Installation part of the Uncertain States Traveling Exhibition  
1995 *Poetic Action*, diverse Los Angeles locations, series of curated artist poetry readings, CA

## SELECTED RESIDENCIES

- 2025-26 The Latinx Project at New York University, New York, NY  
2023 18<sup>th</sup> Street Art Center, Santa Monica, CA  
2018 Montalvo Arts, Los Gatos, CA  
2017 Newcomb Art Museum, New Orleans, LA  
2015 18<sup>th</sup> Street Art Center, Santa Monica, CA  
Pasadena City College, Pasadena, CA  
Art Matters, New York, CA  
2014 Los Angeles Public Art Grant, Residency at William Grant Still Center, Los Angeles, CA  
Asian Cultural Grant, research residency, Tokyo Japan  
2013 Artist Curatorial Residency, Hyde Park Center, Chicago, IL  
FDR Art Residency, Torino, Italy,  
2012 Made In L.A. Biennial, LAXART/Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA  
2011 Encuentro Medellín 2011, Medellín Colombia  
2010 Engagement Party Series, Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Los Angeles, CA  
2007 Montalvo Arts Residency, Los Gatos, CA

## SELECTED AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2015 Art Matters, New York, NY  
2012 Curatorial Arts Grant, Riverside Art Museum, CA

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- 2013 Tiffany Foundation, New York, NY
- City of Los Angeles, Great Latina Women Artists award, Los Angeles, CA
- 2008 Prague Biennial 3 Award, Czech Republic (traveling exhibition grant)
- The Garage, San Diego, CA
- 2001 CalArts James Irvine Institutional Grant, Los Angeles, CA
- 1994 CSSSA Grant Award, CA
- 1993 CSSSA Grant Award, CA

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2017 *Prison Gourmet*, *Times*, New Orleans, CA
- 2010 *Prison Gourmet*, Los Angeles, CA
- 2013 *Engagement Party: Social Practice at MOCA (2008-2012) Exhibition Catalogue*, MOCA, Los Angeles, CA
- 2012 *Made In L.A.* Biennial Exhibition Catalogue, Los Angeles, CA
- The Tío Collection*, Oxnard: Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum
- 2005 *Uncertain States of America*, Oslo: Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art
- 2007 *Exchange*, edited by Tsatsos, Irene Millard Sheets Gallery, CA
- 2006 *Cuban Biennale*, "Trafficking Poetry" Los Angeles, CA
- 2005 *PCH Club*, Santa Monica, CA
- 2002 *Democracy When?*, curated by Tone O. Nielson, Los Angeles: Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, Los Angeles, CA

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2026 Reizman, Renée. "LA Artists Honor Dolores Huerta's Defiant Spirit," [Hyperallergic](#), Apr. 2026
- Firestone, Jesse. "Face to Face: January 2026," [IMPULSE](#), Jan. 31
- 2025 Mejía, Paula. "Eye in The Sky," [KCRW Art Insider](#), Sept. 30
- "Exploring Cultural Identity: Two new solo exhibits open at the Luis De Jesus LA gallery," [LA Downtown News](#), Sept. 29
- Moreno, William. "For artists Frank Romero and Karla Diaz, vibrant color is both provocateur and liberator," [CALO News](#), Sept. 23
- Dambrot, Nys Shana. "13ThingsLA: September 10," [13ThingsLA](#), Sept. 9
- 2024 Dixon, Claudine. "LACMA Favorites: Karla Diaz's Trenzcas (Braids), My Alter Ego," [LACMA UNFRAMED](#), Mar. 18
- "Candlewood Arts Festival March 23 Highlights Public Art in Borrego Springs," [East County Magazine](#), Mar. 14
- The Editors. "These pop-ups, drops and art events got you covered for spring," [Los Angeles Times](#), Mar. 7
- Stromberg, Matt. "10 Shows to See in Los Angeles This March," [Hyperallergic](#), Feb. 27
- Das, Harshita. "Check Out LA's Iconic Under-the-Radar Art Gems This Frieze Week," [Outlook](#), Feb. 27
- Mejía, Paula. "Under-the-Radar Gallery Shows to Check Out in LA During Frieze Week," [ART News](#), Feb. 26
- "Surreal blend of dreams and daily life coverage in paintings and works on paper by Karla Diaz," [Art Daily](#), Feb. 24
- Curiel, Kamren. "Indigenous wisdom at Tía Chucha's, a festival celebrating filmmakers of color and more to do this weekend," [LA Times](#), Feb. 15
- Dambrot, Shana Nys. "Meet Kaleidoscopic Introspection Artist Karla Diaz," [LA Weekly](#), Feb. 12
- 2023 Seeley, David. "The Last Word: The DMA's Anna Katherine Brodbeck on Acquiring 12 Artworks from Dallas Art Fair," [Dallas Innovates](#), Apr. 21
- Porterfield, Carlie. "Dallas Museum of Art acquires 12 works at Dallas Art Fair with annual gift," [The Art Newspaper](#), Apr. 20
- Cummings, Tommy. "Dallas Art Fair works to be added to Dallas Museum of Art collection," [The Dallas Morning News](#), Apr. 20
- 2022 Self, Ben. "More Rip Van Winkle Than Dr. King," [The Mockingbird](#), No. 21, Fall
- Paris, Melina. "We Run Things, Things Don't Run We Celebrates 20 Years of Homegrown Art and Slanguage Studio's Lineage," [Random Length News](#), Los Angeles, Oct. 14

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- Schwenener, Martha. "At NADA, a Glorious Collision of Paintings and Ceramics," The New York Times, May 5
- 2021 Alejandro, Abel. "Wilmington Artist: Karla Diaz," *Xicano Chronicles*, Produced by Atelier Visit Filmed & Edited by Abel Alejandro. Dec. 8
- Miranda, Carolina. "Artist Karla Diaz Turns Insomnia into Dreamlike Paintings at Luis De Jesus," Los Angeles Times, Oct 20
- Heitzman, Lorrain. "Karla Diaz: Insomnia at Luis De Jesus," Art and Cake, Oct. 20.
- 2019 "Call and Response Transcends Generations," Random Length News, Los Angeles
- 2017 *Prison Food*. The Times. New Orleans
- 2016 Pardes, Arielle. "The Art of Gourmet Cooking in Prison." VICE, Venice, CA
- Buckley, Annie. "Prison Gourmet." Radical Actions, Los Angeles, CA
- 2015 Kun, Joshua. *To Live and Dine in L.A.*, Los Angeles, CA
- De Batty, Regine. *We Make Money, Not Art*, "Prison Art" Interview, Los Angeles.
- 2014 Shaw, Matt. "Drive-By Art: I-10's Billboard Masterpieces." Architizer, Jun. 30
- 2013 Spampinato, Francesco. *Come Together: The Rise of Cooperative Art and Design*, pgs. 28-30
- 2012 Knight, Christopher. "Art Review: The Hammer Biennial 'Made in L.A. 2012' Succeeds." Los Angeles Times, Jun. 8
- Garcia, Cesar. "SLANGUAGE," in *Made in L.A. 2012*. Los Angeles: Hammer Museum, p. 3. (catalogue)
- Finkel, Jori. "Hammer Biennial Lends Artists Helping Hand." Los Angeles Times, May 2
- 2011 Mizota, Sharon. "Art Review: 'Possible Worlds' at Los Angeles County Museum of Art." Los Angeles Times, Jul. 14
- 2010 Thompson Nato. *Living As Form*, Boston: MIT Press, p. 224-25

## SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, FL  
AltaMed Art Collection, Los Angeles, CA  
Dallas Museum of Art, TX  
Inhotim Museum, Brumadinho, Brazil  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA  
Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla, CA  
Smithsonian Museum Archives of American Art, Washington, D.C.  
Hugh Davies & Faye Hunter Collection, La Jolla, CA  
Armando Duron Collection, Los Angeles, CA  
Eileen Harris Norton Collection, Los Angeles, CA  
Snapchat Art Collection, Santa Monica, CA