

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum

For Immediate Release

YVETTE MAYORGA: DREAMING OF YOU September 15, 2023 to March 17, 2024

Yvette Mayorga's first East coast museum presentation includes new and borrowed works made over the last seven years, and a new artist-designed wallpaper, and ceramic vase

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum is pleased to announce Yvette Mayorga's first solo museum presentation on the East coast, *Dreaming of You*, which includes a combination of new and borrowed works made over the last seven years alongside a new artist-designed wallpaper and ceramic vase made during a month-long residency at Cerámica Suro in Guadalajara, Mexico. *Yvette Mayorga: Dreaming of You* will be on view September 15, 2023 to March 17, 2024 and be accompanied by public programming and the artist's first museum catalogue.

Spanning painting, sculpture, and installation, and video, Mayorga's work flaunts a maximalist aesthetic rooted in personal narrative and familial histories to examine the Mexican American and Latinx experience in the United States. Mimicking the confectionary labors performed by her mother when she worked as a baker in the 1970s after immigrating to the US, Mayorga uses bakery-grade piping bags to thickly apply her signature bubblegum pink acrylics to varying shaped canvases. Her elaborate, candied reliefs lure you into a world of excess where Rococo-inspired elements abound: lavish trimmings, gilded scrollwork, and architectural ornament. Yet under the veil of saccharine guises, Mayorga's storytelling offers a glimpse into the grim realities of pursuing the American Dream. Her compositions chronicle her upbringing as a first-generation Mexican American woman in the Midwest, as well as greater societal issues ranging from border control, surveillance, and migrant labor—all while recontextualizing a Western-centric art historical viewpoint.

At the heart of the exhibition are three larger-than-life portraits of the artist's family. Swirling with eighteenth century European opulence, the works reference a suite of hand-colored engravings by German artist Martin Engelbrecht (1684–1756) of men and women dressed and accessorized in the tools of their trade. The combined historical and contemporary imagery creates a dialogue of class representation in figurative art. Citing elements from Engelbrecht's illustrations of the Confectioner, the Baker, and the Porcelain Worker, among others, Mayorga creates rich compositions that speak to the crafts that orbit her practice and her family's history. *F* is for ICE 1975–2018*, 2018, foreshadows these portraits as the artist and her grandfather are depicted side-by-side



Yvette Mayorga, *Scorpion After Ouvrière en Porcelaine*, 2023. Courtesy of the artist

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outfitted in clothing representative of their professions; Yvette sports an anti-ICE t-shirt, piping bag in hand, while her grandfather dons a polo patterned with Tootsie Rolls—alluding to the many years he spent working at the candy factory after immigrating to the US. The exhibition's title, *Dreaming of You*, is a gesture of admiration not to a crush or a lover, but to the members of the artist's family, the only people she incorporates in her paintings and those who are central to Mayorga's imagined worlds—ones steeped in fantasy and frill, but which are often more authentic than the sought after American Dream.

The artist's first museum catalogue will accompany the exhibition, featuring an essay by the curator, Caitlin Monachino.

Yvette Mayorga was born in 1991 in Moline, Illinois, and lives and works in Chicago. She holds a BFA from the University of Illinois and an MFA in Fiber and Material Studies from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She has exhibited at the Vincent Price Art Museum, DePaul Art Museum, El Museo del Barrio, the Center for Craft, the Museum Universitario del Chopo, and LACMA's Pacific Standard Time:LA/LA. Her first solo museum exhibition *What a Time To Be* at the Momentary, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art is on view through October 2023. Currently, Mayorga is working on a large-scale installation for the City of Chicago's permanent public art collection at O'Hare International Airport's Terminal 5. Her works are in the permanent collections of 21c Museum Hotels, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, DePaul Art Museum, El Museo del Barrio, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, and New Mexico State University Art Museum.

Yvette Mayorga: Dreaming of You is organized by Caitlin Monachino, Curatorial and Publications Manager. The artist's first museum catalogue will accompany the exhibition, featuring an essay by Monachino.

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