

**BMoCA**



Present Box

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***The Journey Continues Toward  
Justice, El Movimiento Sigue***

August 12 - September 6, 2021

Judy Miranda and Geraldina "Jerry"  
Lawson

# ***The Journey Continues Toward Justice, El Movimiento Sigue***

Judy Miranda and Geraldina "Jerry" Lawson

Installation

Multimedia

2021

How do you best honor the sacrifices and memory of Los Seis de Boulder? Francisco Dougherty, Florencio Granado, Una Jaakola, Reyes Martínez, Neva Romero, and Heriberto Terán were six young people who died in two separate car bombings in Boulder in May of 1974. The work of Los Seis was centered on the issues catalyzing the Chicano Movement in the 1960s and 1970s, especially efforts for social justice and educational equality at the University of Colorado at Boulder. The best way to honor Los Seis is to continue the work they were so passionately pursuing at the end of their lives.

Artists Judy Miranda and Jerry Lawson have designed an exhibition that speaks directly to the core issue that so animated Los Seis: Justice in America. As part of BMOCA's Present Box series, this innovative, site-specific project fosters interactive participation and enables the artists to explore new approaches. This exhibition has been inspired by BMOCA's concurrent InsideOut exhibition of *El movimiento sigue*, a community-generated sculpture facilitated by Los Seis de Boulder Sculpture Project and Jasmine Baetz that honors Los Seis and their role in the struggles for equal opportunity in America.

Miranda and Lawson have chosen the situation challenging Dreamers, the young people caught in the present controversy of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and the Dream Act, to represent the social justice work of Los Seis in our current time. Through the interactive installation, visitors experience and understand the physical, mental, and emotional realities Dreamers face every day and become active in the journey toward justice.

The installation centers on the experience of Gabriel and Brenda, two Dreamers represented by life-sized mannequins. Together they stand at the center of the exhibit, dressed as graduate students in cap and gown. Their clothing symbolizes how they are at the beginning of their journey toward the American Dream. As visitors enter the space, they immediately encounter signs hanging in the air in the Mexican Papel Picado tradition. The signs express the plight of the Dreamers' lives in America. Their hopes and wishes speak a litany of sentiments: Without Dreamers, There is No American Dream; Home is Here, Here to Stay; We Are Not Aliens; Dreamers Not Criminals; Stop Deportations; Citizenship Now; Dreamers Belong Here. On the floor, footstep outlines labeled with descriptions of the challenges facing the Dreamers, lead to two American and Mexican flags joined together, depicting the dilemma of living in two cultures. An eight-foot wall in the back of the installation represents the barriers facing Dreamers and the constant threat of deportation.

Visitors are invited to write personal comments and reflections about the issues presented in the exhibition on paper tags, which they can hang on the clothesline reaching across two windows. Visitors are encouraged to share uplifting and hopeful responses inspired by the exhibition. At the close of the exhibition, the artists will send the tags to their congressional representatives urging their support of the Dreamers' journey toward American citizenship.

A focusing motto for Miranda and Lawson's exhibition is *El Movimiento Sigue* (The Movement Continues). The issues of education, housing, employment, health care, immigration, and police brutality are as pressing today as they were 47 years ago in the last year of the lives of Los Seis. The issues of the Chicano Movement are still the issues challenging America.

Cover Image: Judy Miranda and Geraldina "Jerry" Lawson; *The Journey Continues Toward Justice, El Movimiento Sigue*; multimedia installation; 2021. Courtesy of the artists.

The plight of the young Dreamers, who face immediate deportation is a perfect illustration of the need to continue the work of Los Seis. The Dreamers who have lived their lives in America and who know no other life are asking that they continue their lives in the only country they have ever known. The fact that they face immediate deportation without a legal path to United States citizenship is a clear illustration that the struggle for justice in America is far from over.

*El Movimiento Sigue,*  
The Movement Continues.

Join and be active in the journey toward justice.

-Essay by Angel Vigil



Above: Judy Miranda and Geraldina "Jerry" Lawson, *Dreamer as Dental Hygienist*, multimedia installation, 2021. Courtesy of the artists.

## Artist Biographies

### Geraldina "Jerry" Lawson

Geraldina "Jerry" Lawson is a Denver-based artist who was born in the border town of Laredo, Texas, where she grew up bilingually (Spanish and English) and biculturally (Mexican and American). Her observations of unjust treatment in her Latino community sparked her desire to address disparities and express her Chicana identity through art. Lawson's commitment to social justice grew through her 35-year career as a nurse in public healthcare. During the 1980s, she began her journey in the Chicano arts by directing and producing Chicano teatro. Lawson was the proprietor and artistic director of Artes del Pueblo (Art of the People) where she curated 40 exhibitions. A recognized professional storyteller, she has performed "Cuentos de Lupe la Loca" locally and nationally and published a book of her cuentos/stories. In 2010 she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Chicano Humanities and Arts Council in Denver. Her artistic practice currently includes relief wood carvings focused on social justice.

### Judy Miranda

Born in southern California, Judy Miranda sees through the eyes of a first-generation American. Her father emigrated from Hungary during World War II, and her mother emigrated from Mexico. She began making art in high school, working in photography before branching out into painting and wood carving. Miranda seeks to create works that open viewers' eyes and hearts and provide the space for questioning personal and societal beliefs. Through her art, she strives to share her passion for truth and social justice. Miranda's first exhibition was in 1975 at the California State University Long Beach gallery, where she was the first Chicano artist to exhibit work. She has since shown her work internationally at venues including the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, Hunter Gallery in New York, the Prado Museum in Spain, and galleries in Cuba and Mexico City. Miranda lives and works in Denver and is a member of the Chicano Humanities and Arts Council.

**Present Box** is a series of temporary exhibitions that invite artists to transform BMOCA's lobby and front entrance into innovative installations, performances, and events. The site-specific projects are intended to encourage artists to create work outside their comfort zone, and to foster interactive participation. Artists are also urged to explore themes that are relevant for our present time.

BMOCA would like to thank the families of Los Seis de Boulder for their gracious involvement in the museum's exhibition of *El movimiento sigue* and associated programs. BMOCA looks forward to further collaboration with the families, Los Seis de Boulder Sculpture Project, and many community partners, including El Centro AMISTAD, Chicano Humanities & Arts Council, City of Boulder Office of Arts & Culture, The Latino History Project, Metropolitan State University of Denver Department of Chicana/o Studies Journey Through Our Heritage, Mexican Cultural Center, Museo de las Americas, and YWCA of Boulder County.

During the year-long exhibition of *El movimiento sigue*, BMOCA will collaborate with community members and groups to create free public programs that honor the history of Los Seis de Boulder and spark conversation about the current state of equal opportunity for all people in our community. This exhibition is presented as part of these efforts and in partnership with Chicano Humanities & Arts Council (CHAC) in conjunction with the *El movimiento sigue* exhibition in BMOCA's InsideOut space.

## **Present Box Events**

### **Opening Reception**

Thursday, August 12

5-7pm

Free public reception

*Thank you to our generous sponsors:*

*Nicky Wolman & David Fulker, Sue Schweppe, Audrey & Andy Franklin, The Markowitz Family, City of Boulder, Boulder Arts Commission, Human Relations Commission, Scientific & Cultural Facilities District, Colorado Creative Industries, and National Endowment for the Arts.*

*Presented in partnership with Chicano Humanities & Arts Council (CHAC).*



Please Do Not Touch Works of Art  
Flash Photography Not Permitted

# **BMOCA**

Boulder Museum of  
Contemporary Art

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