

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 that last less than a month. Presented two times per year, the site-specific projects are intended to encourage artists to create work outside their comfort zone and to foster interactive participation. The exhibitions encourage experimentation and urge artists to test ideas and explore different approaches. Present Box exhibitions are always free and open to the public.

Present Box Events

Undocumented Stories: Performance & Reception

Thursday April 13, 6-8pm
Free
6pm Public reception
7pm Performance

Opening reception and special performance by monologists Cristian Solano-Córdova and Kiara Chávez with musical accompaniment by Spirit of Grace.

Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

BMOCA at Macky

Jerrie Hurd: *Beyond the Male Gaze*
January 19 – May 26, 2023

InsideOut

Mia Mulvey: *Albedo Effect*
February 2023 – June 2024

Victor Escobedo: *A Dim Light*

May 11-May 29, 2023

Summer 2023

agriCULTURE: *Art Inspired by the Land*
June 8 – October 1, 2023

Fall 2023

MediaLive: *Technology as Healing*
October 12, 2023 – January 14, 2024

BMOCA's Spring Exhibitions are generously supported by the Kemper Family Foundations, the Scintilla Foundation, Stephanie & R. Alan Rudy, City of Boulder, Boulder Arts Commission, Scientific & Cultural Facilities District, Colorado Creative Industries, and National Endowment for the Arts. Motus Theater is grateful for the support of the Gateway Fund II of the Denver Foundation and the Community Foundation of Boulder County for the UndocuAmerica exhibitions featuring Cindy Loya and Victor Escobedo.

Please Do Not Touch Works of Art
Flash Photography Not Permitted

BMOCA

Boulder Museum of
Contemporary Art

1750 13th Street
Boulder, Colorado 80302
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BMOCA.org



**MOTUS + Cindy Loya:
*Returning Home***

April 13 – April 27, 2023

MOTUS + Cindy Loya: *Returning Home*

BMoCA is proud to partner with Motus Theater to present two consecutive temporary exhibitions in Present Box featuring visual artists Cindy Loya and Victor Escobedo paired with *UndocuAmerica* monologists Kiara Chávez and Cristian Solano-Córdova. This partnership aims to de-escalate divisive beliefs surrounding immigration policies by amplifying intergenerational, family-centric narratives reimagined through alternative media, including quilting and puppetry.

Cindy Loya is a Denver-based mixed media artist who was born in California and raised in Mexico until she returned to the US at sixteen. Loya uses textiles as a medium to narrate stories through various techniques, including embroidery, quilting, felting, and appliqué. For this project, Loya collaborated with *UndocuAmerica* monologist Kiara Chávez to visually represent her story *Returning Home*. At nineteen, Chávez was granted permission for “advanced parole” to leave the country as a DACA recipient to take care of her ill grandmother in Mexico. However, she was not guaranteed entry back to the US. Chávez juxtaposes the fear and uncertainty she felt of leaving one home with the triumph of returning to another one to reclaim her cultural roots.

As a tribute, Loya centers a hand-painted portrait of Chávez holding an anatomical heart with a string of yarn, representing her umbilical cord that is connected back to Colima, Chávez’s ancestral birth home. The other body of work consists of a series of portraits taken from photographs of Chávez and her grandmother as well as Loya and her grandmother, all outlined in red embroidery floss to symbolize veins stemming from one heart. The lace fabric alludes to family members kept at bay just on the other side of a curtain-like veil. Although Loya and Chávez essentially moved in opposite directions across the border, their stories overlap as testimony to the power of lineage and the heartache of separation.

Motus Theater creates original theater to facilitate community conversations on critical issues of our time. Working at the intersection of storytelling and public policy, Motus uses the power of art to build alliances across diverse segments of our community and country. In 2022, Motus received *Westword’s* Best Theater Company Programming award.

UndocuAmerica: Reclaiming Our Presence: In 2022, muralist Edica Pacha installed 12 murals in Colorado featuring 10 different **Motus Theater UndocuAmerica** project monologists with DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). The murals were accompanied by QR codes linking directly to videos of the monologists sharing their stories. Some murals were targets of vandalism fueled by anti-immigrant sentiment. *Reclaiming Our Presence* is an empowering and healing response in which the undocumented community can feel their stories and lives uplifted in the face of erasure and aggression. It affirms community power with the message that, when community members get hurt, we have the opportunity and the responsibility to coalesce, heal, and come back stronger.

Cover image: Cindy Loya, *Kiara* (detail), 2023, embroidery and applique on hand-quilted fabric, 80 x 60". Image courtesy of the artist.



Above: Cindy Loya, *Connections* (detail), 2023, yarn, thread, and recycled textile, 99 x 84". Image courtesy of the artist.

Artist Biography

Cindy Loya is a Mexican American mixed media artist. She spent most of her early childhood and young adulthood in Mexico and currently resides and works in the Denver metro area. Her art is inspired by the dualities of being Mexican American, feminism, and nature. She combines a variety of mediums, including paint, paper, textile, and digital tools, to create illustrations. Loya uses art as a vehicle for storytelling and a way to inspire viewers to connect to their shared heritage and community.

www.cindyloya.com
IG @lacindyart

Monologist Biography

Kiara Chávez migrated to Denver with her family at the age of four from Colima, Mexico. Chávez works as Community Outreach Associate for the City of Denver Parks & Recreation. She graduated from the University of Colorado Boulder’s Leeds School of Business with a BA in business administration. Her experience as an immigrant fuels her passion for social justice.