

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

Opening Performance & Reception

Thursday, May 11, 6-8:30 pm

Free

6 pm public reception

7:30 pm performance

Opening reception and special performance by monologist Cristian Solano-Córdova and Motus' Playback Theater Ensemble, where you can see your stories of courage being played by professional actors.

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

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

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Boulder, Colorado 80302
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BMOCA.org



**MOTUS + Victor Escobedo:
*A Dim Light***

May 11 - May 29th, 2023

MOTUS + Victor Escobedo: *A Dim Light*

BMoCA is proud to partner with Motus Theater to present two consecutive temporary exhibitions in the Present Box exhibition space at BMoCA 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.

Victor Escobedo is a Denver-based muralist and multimedia artist who remixes ancient and futuristic imagery to create new modes of mythmaking. For *A Dim Light*, Escobedo has constructed a tableau of a night sky to visually emulate Cristian Solano-Córdova's *UndocuAmerica* monologue *The Meaning of Courage*, which recalls his journey crossing the border at the age of three with his mother and one-year-old sister.

Solano-Córdova sets the scene of being in the middle of nowhere, in the middle of the night... his mother corralling two small toddlers, while heeding the signals of the coyote (border crossing guide). Light is a constant theme throughout his experience, starting with the children's trophy light-up shoes (a fad at the time), which at one point help them navigate under a raised road by lighting their way through a drainage tunnel. However, a border patrol car sits just on the other side of the tunnel. At the command of the coyote, his mother takes off their shoes and bends down on hands and knees with the others. Once they start crawling on top of ground strewn with cactus needles, his mother quickly and quietly stands up holding both children and deliberately walks toward a dim silver light in the distance, described by Solano-Córdova as the light of a shining city... the symbol of a better future.

Escobedo has transformed Solano-Córdova's moonlit journey into a tableau of the night sky, highlighting his passage through the drainage tunnel. Escobedo animates the coyote by positioning him next to a sack of dreams belonging to the "Dreamers" (a term used for DACA recipients), who are represented by the butterflies. Monarch butterflies not only follow a migratory path between the US and Mexico but also hold significance within Mexican culture. For example, the Indigenous Purépecha people believe monarch butterflies are the souls of their ancestors returning to them. Ultimately, Escobedo's stage serves as a literal metaphor for the light at the end of the tunnel, echoing the conviction and courage it takes to walk toward your dreams.

Cover Image Courtesy of Artist.



Above Image Courtesy of Artist.

Artist Biography

Victor Escobedo has developed a compelling style utilizing various forms of expression, including ceramic masks, marionettes, murals, paintings, and performance. Escobedo explores his Mayan cultural lineage by reinterpreting mythology and shamanistic practices from the Yucatán, often in order to incite some measure of spiritual transformation. His practice is influenced not only by ancient iconography but also by hip hop and graffiti, in part as a result of his upbringing in Los Angeles. The specificity in which Escobedo mashes up both traditional and contemporary cultural references is what makes his work universally relevant. He developed his unique approach to storytelling in his marionette show *Ojos en la Selva* (2019), funded by a grant from the Jim Henson Foundation. Escobedo is the founder and director of Cenote Studios and a resident artist at Alto Gallery.