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# THE HALSEY INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART ANNOUNCES *KUKULI VELARDE: CORPUS*, AN EXHIBITION THAT EXPLORES ISSUES OF COLONIALISM, CULTURAL IDENTITY, AESTHETICS, AND THE PERFORMANCE OF SELF

CHARLESTON, SC – The [Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art](#) at the College of Charleston School of the Arts announces the upcoming exhibition, *Kukuli Velarde: CORPUS*. This exhibition will be on view at the Halsey Institute from Friday, May 13 to Saturday, July 16, 2022. The Halsey Institute's gallery hours are Monday – Saturday 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM and 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Thursdays, and the galleries are open to the public with free admission.

## ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

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The Halsey Institute will debut Peruvian American artist Kukuli Velarde's *CORPUS* project in its entirety for the first time. *CORPUS* is comprised of ceramic and fabric works that encourage reflection on the meaning of survival in the face of colonialism. Fifteen ceramic sculptures, each with matching tapestries, will be presented in a symbolic representation of the annual Corpus Christi festival in Cusco, Perú. The sculptures reference indigenous pre-Columbian forms and iconographies in a visual representation of syncretic aesthetic, cultural, and religious traditions. *CORPUS* engages with and confronts Perú's Spanish colonial past, asserting that pre-Columbian sacred entities and the worldview they inhabit were not vanquished by Spanish conquerors, but instead cleverly blended with their Catholic counterparts, ensuring their survival. So too, have the diverse peoples of Perú and greater Latin America formed and reformed political, religious, and cultural identity in the shadow of centuries-long oppression. Velarde's *CORPUS* asks viewers to consider this resilience via her stunningly detailed and humorously thought-provoking work.

Velarde raises fascinating questions about the inner life of art objects, as well as the exotic "Othering" of sacred rituals like Corpus Christi that now also serve as tourist attractions for visitors to Perú. In this complete realization, *CORPUS* explores issues of colonialism, cultural identity, aesthetics, and the performance of self.

*Kukuli Velarde: CORPUS* was organized by the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, College of Charleston School of the Arts, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, and the University of Texas at San Antonio's Southwest Campus. *Kukuli Velarde: CORPUS* is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Additionally, the Halsey Institute's presentation of *CORPUS* is supported by donations from A Friend of the Arts, Lynn and Jeff Trenning, Karen A. Vournakis, Lynch Cracraft Wealth Management of Raymond James, Marissa Amaka Sams, Marshall Walker Real Estate, Anonymous, Bette Mueller-Roemer and Walter Crocker, Carolyn and William Matalene, Colin Johnson, Karen and David Thompson, Kathryn and Brian Rutenberg, Liz and Greg Lantz, Peggy Schachte and Hal Currey, Pam and Stan Kaplan, Tyler and Sunshine Leinbach, Anne and Cisco H. Lindsey, and Adrienne Jacobsen and Joshua Bagwell.

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## ABOUT KUKULI VELARDE

Kukuli Velarde is a Peruvian American artist based in Philadelphia, PA. Velarde is a multi-talented artist, working in ceramic, painting, drawing, and installation. Much of her work draws on pre-Columbian traditional forms and iconographies, highlighting colonized and syncretic identities and aesthetic systems. Velarde received a BFA from Hunter College in New York City. She is the recipient of such awards as the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship (2015), Pollock-Krasner Foundation grant (2012), and Joan Mitchell Foundation grant (1997). Her work can be found in the collections of Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Lima, Perú; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, among many others.

Kukuli Velarde's website is [KukuliVelarde.com](http://KukuliVelarde.com)

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## EVENTS DURING CORPUS

*We are planning to host all events during summer 2022 in-person at the Halsey Institute galleries, and some will have a virtual access option. With the rapidly changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is no guarantee that all in-person events will occur as outlined below, and details are subject to change. Please visit our website at [halsey.cofc.edu](http://halsey.cofc.edu) for the most up-to-date event information including access links for virtual events. All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. **M** indicates a members-only event.*

Free staff-led tours will take place at 2:00 PM every Saturday during the exhibition unless superseded by a public program. No reservations required.

### **M** Member Preview Day

**Thursday, May 12, 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM**

Free admission for all Halsey Institute members

RSVP to [halseyRSVP@cofc.edu](mailto:halseyRSVP@cofc.edu) with a desired reservation hour.

All Halsey Institute members are invited to get a first glimpse of our newest exhibition before it opens to the general public. Learn more about the benefits of membership at [halsey.cofc.edu/sustain](http://halsey.cofc.edu/sustain)

### Opening Reception

**Friday, May 13, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM**

Join the Halsey Institute staff, Advisory Board, exhibiting artist, and interns in a celebration of our newest exhibition, *Kukuli Velarde: CORPUS*. All College of Charleston students, faculty, and staff, and current Halsey Institute members receive free admission to our opening receptions. Non-members will be asked for a \$5 donation.

### Artist talk with Kukuli Velarde

**Saturday, May 14, 2:00 PM**

This event will take place both in-person and virtually at [halsey.cofc.edu/live](https://halsey.cofc.edu/live)

Exhibiting artist Kukuli Velarde will discuss her art-making process, past projects, and the current exhibition.

### Sit a Spell conversation series

**Wednesday, May 25, 12:00 PM**

The Sit a Spell conversation series aims to encourage thoughtful conversation on a variety of topics and issues presented in our current exhibitions. Join our featured conversation facilitators in the exhibition space for free-form conversations during your lunch break.

### **M** Membership Mornings

**Friday, June 17, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

Free admission for all Halsey Institute members

No RSVP is required

Join the Halsey Institute staff in the galleries to chat about the *CORPUS* exhibition over coffee sponsored by Counter Culture Coffee. Learn more about the benefits of membership at [halsey.cofc.edu/sustain](https://halsey.cofc.edu/sustain)

### **M** Curator-led Tour of *CORPUS*

**Thursday, July 14, 7:00 PM**

Free admission for all Halsey Institute members

This event will take place in-person with virtual participation available through Zoom

RSVP for the Zoom access link to [halseyRSVP@cofc.edu](mailto:halseyRSVP@cofc.edu)

Join the Halsey Institute's staff for an exclusive guided tour of the exhibition. Learn more about the benefits of membership at [halsey.cofc.edu/sustain](https://halsey.cofc.edu/sustain)

PUBLICATION FOR *CORPUS*

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The Halsey Institute has produced an exhibition catalogue to accompany *CORPUS*. The publication features detailed photographs of the *CORPUS* sculptures, along with an introduction by Tey Marianna Nunn and essays by Halsey Institute director Katie Hirsch and Kukuli Velarde's mother, Alfonsina Barrionuevo.



## NATIONAL CORPUS TOUR

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Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, Colorado College  
Colorado Springs, CO  
January 14 – April 9, 2022

Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, College of Charleston  
Charleston, SC  
May 13 – July 16, 2022

University of Texas at San Antonio's Southwest Campus  
San Antonio, TX  
September 9 – November 5, 2022

The Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA)  
Winston-Salem, NC  
July 20 – October 15, 2023

Berman Museum of Art, Ursinus College  
Collegeville, PA  
January 18 – April 7, 2024

## ABOUT THE HALSEY INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

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The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston provides a multidisciplinary laboratory for the production, presentation, interpretation, and dissemination of ideas by innovative visual artists from around the world. As a non-collecting museum, we create meaningful interactions between adventurous artists and diverse communities within a context that emphasizes the historical, social, and cultural importance of the art of our time.

**Location:** The Marion and Wayland H. Cato Jr. Center for the Arts, College of Charleston  
161 Calhoun Street, 1st Floor (corner of St. Philip & Calhoun Streets), Charleston, SC 29401

**Parking:** Available at metered spaces on surrounding streets and in the St. Philip and George Street Garages



**Gallery hours:** 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM on Monday through Saturday and 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM on Thursdays. The galleries are closed on Sundays. FREE ADMISSION and OPEN to the public.

**Tours:** Free guided group tours are offered through the Halsey Institute’s Looking to See program.

Email [halseyTOURS@cofc.edu](mailto:halseyTOURS@cofc.edu) for inquiries.

**Social media accounts:** [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#).

**For more information:** call (843) 953-4422, visit [halsey.cofc.edu](http://halsey.cofc.edu), or e-mail [halsey@cofc.edu](mailto:halsey@cofc.edu)

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