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# THE HALSEY INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART ANNOUNCES *NANCY FRIEDEMANN-SÁNCHEZ: PINTURAS DE CASTA AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF AMERICAN IDENTITY*, AN EXHIBITION THAT REFLECTS ON A LEGACY OF COLONIALISM.

CHARLESTON, SC – The [Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art](#) at the College of Charleston School of the Arts announces the upcoming exhibition, *Nancy Friedemann-Sánchez: Pinturas de Casta and the Construction of American Identity*. 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 of Contemporary Art will present works from Colombian American artist Nancy Friedemann-Sánchez's *Casta Paintings* series. Friedemann-Sánchez's paintings reference *casta* painting, a genre popularized in eighteenth-century Spanish Colonial Central and South America that purported to depict a racial and social taxonomy of children born of racially mixed couplings. Friedemann-Sánchez's contemporary *casta* paintings take inspiration from this problematic genre to reflect on the legacy of colonialism that lingers in the racial and social discrimination and marginalization present in her home country of Colombia and here in the United States. The paintings feature life-size tracings of female bodies adorned with floral imagery lifted from both the indigenous resin technique of *mopa mopa* and Spanish colonial iconography. Masks from across Latin America and the Caribbean are included to represent stereotypes born of colonial-era mixed-race classifications that continue to perpetuate today.

## ABOUT NANCY FRIEDEMANN-SÁNCHEZ

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Nancy Friedemann-Sánchez is a Colombo-American, mid-career artist with an interdisciplinary practice. She grew up in Colombia as the child of a Colombian and a United States citizen and migrated to the US as an adult. Her art is about the curious and intense experience of having physically migrated, yet still having a piece of herself rooted in Colombia. She is creating an intersectional feminist visual novel that is a multifaceted project comprised of paintings, sculptures, objects, and mixed media that together—and in different voices—weave a synchronicity of dialogues, passages, and punctuations about hybridity and cultural ownership.

She is in the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art; she participated at the *20 Congreso Internacional: La Experiencia Intelectual de las Mujeres en el Siglo XXI* in 2012 in Mexico City. Shows include Utah Museum of Contemporary Art, The Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami, Blue Star Contemporary, The Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, La Bienal de Cuenca, Ecuador, Sheldon Museum of Art at the University of Nebraska, Joslyn Art Museum, Portland Museum of Art, El Museo del Barrio, and Bronx Museum of the Arts.

She was awarded the Doctorow Prize in Painting, a Nebraska Arts Council grant, a Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship, a Puffin Foundation grant, a Pollock-Krasner Foundation grant, a National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures grant, and was nominated to the Joan Mitchell Foundation, the United States Artists fellowships, the Rema Hort Mann Foundation, and to the Anonymous Was A Woman Award. She was a resident at Art Omi, Fountainhead, Tamarind Institute, Yaddo, Gasworks, Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, and Bronx Museum of the Arts.

Visit Nancy Friedemann-Sánchez's website at [NancyFriedemann.com](http://NancyFriedemann.com)

#### EVENTS DURING *PINTURAS DE CASTA AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF AMERICAN IDENTITY*

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*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. Not a member yet? Not a problem! 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**

All event guests will be added to a contact tracing form in compliance with the College of Charleston's [COVID-19 policies](#).

Join the Halsey Institute staff, Advisory Board, exhibiting artist, and interns in a celebration of our newest exhibition, *Nancy Friedemann-Sánchez: Pinturas de Casta and the Construction of American Identity*.

#### Artist talk with Nancy Friedemann-Sánchez

**Tuesday, May 17, 7:00 PM**

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

All event guests will be added to a contact tracing form in compliance with the College of Charleston's [COVID-19 policies](#).

Exhibiting artist Nancy Friedemann-Sánchez will discuss her art-making process, past projects, and the current exhibition.

### Sit a Spell conversation series

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

All event guests will be added to a contact tracing form in compliance with the College of Charleston's [COVID-19 policies](#). 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

All event guests will be added to a contact tracing form in compliance with the College of Charleston's [COVID-19 policies](#). Join the Halsey Institute staff in the galleries to chat about the *Pinturas de Casta and the Construction of American Identity* exhibition over coffee. Not a member yet? Not a problem! Learn more about the benefits of membership at [halsey.cofc.edu/sustain](https://halsey.cofc.edu/sustain)

### M Curator-led Tour of *Pinturas de Casta and the Construction of American Identity*

**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. Explore the exhibition, get insider knowledge, and meet other Halsey Institute lovers! Not a member yet? Not a problem! Learn more about the benefits of membership at [halsey.cofc.edu/sustain](https://halsey.cofc.edu/sustain)

## 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. Free, staff-led guided tours are available at 2:00 PM every Saturday during exhibitions unless superseded by a program.

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

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

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