

For Immediate Release

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STAYBITE: MODES OF OPERATION

An exhibition curated by Karla Diaz and Evelyn Serrano

Opening Reception: Friday, January 23, 6:30-9pm

Exhibition Dates: January 23-February 21, 2009

The University of Texas at Dallas, Visual Arts Building

800 West Campbell Rd, Richardson, TX 75080-3021

Gallery Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9am-10pm, Sat. 9am-6pm, Sun. closed

Dallas, Texas, December 17, 2008 - The University of Texas at Dallas presents *StayBite: Modes of Operation*, an exhibition curated by artist Evelyn Serrano and writer Karla Diaz. The exhibition brings together a group of Southern California and Tijuana-based artists, art collectives and their accomplices whose practices enact questions and proposals about public space, personal agency, civic engagement, and models of action.

StayBite: Modes of Operation is a “walk-in tool box” for artists, educators, cultural field workers, policy makers and other curious types looking beyond art’s representational paradigm and contemplative value. The exhibition concentrates on context-based and process-focused practices that consider new territories for artistic and collaborative activity. From the direct political action of the clowns of C.I.R.C.A., to the migrant cities of Roberto Romero-Molina, the history plaques of the Pocho Research Society, and Elana Mann’s international performance exchange organized in response to the 2008 US presidential elections, *StayBite* is an anthology of strategies and a call to action.

As part of this exhibition the curators have also organized a screening, an expedition, and a series of lectures and Skype forums. For information about activities related to this exhibition visit www.ah.utdallas.edu.

This exhibition is an *Artists for Social Justice* project.
www.artistsforsocialjustice.blogspot.com

Images of the work in the exhibition are available here:
<http://artistsforsocialjustice.blogspot.com/2008/12/presenting-artists-and-collectives.html>

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS AND COLLECTIVES

Clandestine Insurgent Rebel Clown Army (C.I.R.C.A.), San Diego Chapter
Colectivo Bulbo
Fallen Fruit
Vicky Funari and Sergio de la Torre
Ariel Kletzky / Islands of LA
Elana Mann / Exchange Rate
Amitis Motevalli
Pocho Research Society
Roberto Romero-Molina
Selah Artistic Giving Center
Shannon Spanhake
Arnoldo Vargas

ABOUT THE CURATORS

Evelyn Serrano is a Cuban interdisciplinary artist, educator, independent curator, community organizer, and mother currently living in Los Angeles County, California. Serrano obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) in Baltimore and a Master of Fine Arts degree from the California Institute of the Arts, School of Art, in Valencia, California. Prior to that, she studied visual arts, design, art theory, epistemology, and literature in Havana, Montevideo and Miami. She has exhibited her work in many solo and group exhibitions nationally and internationally. In addition, she is honored to have worked with talented artists, choreographers, writers and performers in many exhibitions, projects and art events she has organized and curated throughout the United States as well as in Montevideo, Tel Aviv, Tijuana, and La Habana. Serrano currently teaches at the CalArts School of Art and the School of Theater, and has lectured and led workshops at the New World School of the Arts in Miami, the CEART in Mexicali, the Center for the Arts in Eagle Rock, the University of Texas in Dallas, and the Instituto Superior de Diseño Industrial in La Habana. She is also the Assistant Director of Programs at the CalArts Community Arts Partnership (CAP). Her work as artist, educator and arts administrator focuses on context-specific practices that advance the impact of the arts as a tool for social change.

Karla Diaz is a writer, artist and curator. She is a professor at California State University Long Beach and Harbor College. Diaz has read her work and

exhibited projects in venues throughout Southern California including the Getty Museum of Art, REDCAT, the Natural History Museum in Los Angeles, the Serpentine Gallery in London, and the Zocalo in Mexico City. She writes for several art magazines including Beautiful Decay, FlashArt and the Journal of Aesthetics and Protest. Karla is a founding member of Slanguage, an artist collective in Wilmington, CA and curator at the New Chinatown Barbershop gallery in Los Angeles.