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02/11/2025

# El Paso Museum of Art Reopens Second Floor Galleries with New Exhibitions Featuring Judithe Hernández and Tom Lea

**EL PASO, Texas**—The El Paso Museum of Art (EPMA) is excited to announce the reopening of its Second Floor Galleries on Saturday, February 15, after an extensive capital improvement project updating the museum’s HVAC systems.

In celebration, EPMA invites the community to explore new installations featuring artworks on loan from local collectors and three exciting new exhibitions: Judithe Hernández: Beyond Myself, Somewhere, I Wait for My Arrival; Tom Lea and Contemporaries; and Owen Schwab: Group Therenin.

## ABOUT THE EXHIBITS

### ***Judithe Hernández: Beyond Myself, Somewhere, I Wait for My Arrival***

February 15 - April 20, 2025 | Woody and Gayle Hunt Family Gallery

This exhibition marks the first major retrospective of Judithe Hernández’s 50-year career. Curated by María Esther Fernández and organized by The Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture of the Riverside Art Museum, the exhibit presents over 80 works, primarily chalk pastels, from Hernández’s renowned Adam & Eve, Juárez, México, and Colonization series. Visitors can also view a video chronicling her early years in muralism and activism.

Hernández’s art reflects the lived realities and mythologies of Mexican migrant women, addressing themes of colonization and the U.S.-Mexico border. As the fifth and only female member of the iconic Chicano artist collective Los Four, Hernández began her artistic journey creating murals alongside Carlos Almaraz for Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers Union. She was one of the first Chicana artists to achieve national recognition, earning her first solo exhibition outside the Western U.S. in 1983 and international acclaim through the groundbreaking European debut of Chicano art.

Her work is part of major collections, including those at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), Smithsonian American Art Museum, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA).

The exhibition’s title draws inspiration from the line “Beyond myself, somewhere, I wait for my arrival,” from Octavio Paz’s poem “The Balcony” (translated by Eliot Weinberger).

Lead exhibition support is provided by Bank of America. Additional support provided by the Estate of Lineaus Hooper Lorette, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Texas Commission on the Arts, the Allen Blevins & Armando Aispuro Hernández Fund, the El Paso Museum of Art Foundation, and the City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Department.

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***Tom Lea and Contemporaries***

February 15, 2025 | Tom Lea Gallery

This exhibition explores the life and legacy of Tom Lea (b. 1907, El Paso), one of the most influential Southwestern artists of the 20th century. After training at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Lea gained national recognition for his public murals, war correspondence for LIFE Magazine, and the bestselling novel The King Ranch. His art focuses on the history, landscape, and culture of the Southwest.

Tom Lea and Contemporaries showcases an array of landscapes, portraits, and mural studies, accompanied by personal correspondence between artists to highlight the creative exchange that made El Paso a hub of cultural collaboration. Featured artists include: Manuel Acosta, Lois Denton, Fremont Ellis, Leola Freeman, Carl Hertzog, Peter Hurd, Ada Miller, Audley Dean Nicols, Urbici Soler, and Henriette Wyeth.

The exhibition features works from EPMA's collection, with additional loans from the El Paso Museum of History and UTEP Special Collections. Support for this exhibition is provided by the El Paso Museum of Art Foundation and the City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Department.

***Owen Schwab: Group Theremin***

February 15, 2025 | Isha Rogers Sculpture Gallery

Owen Schwab, an innovative new media artist and designer based in Albuquerque, New Mexico, presents his interactive installation Group Theremin. Inspired by the influence of technology on personal and public spaces, Schwab's work reflects on the silent frequencies surrounding us, using ultrasonic sensors to create synth-like sounds and LED animations.

The installation invites visitors to interact with its audio-visual elements, drawing inspiration from the towering cell phone structures that dot the Southwest. Support for this loan is provided by The El Paso Museum of Art Foundation and the City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Department.

For more information, visit <https://epma.art/>.

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