



**City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs
CURRENT:LA FOOD Public Art Triennial**

MEDIA RELEASE

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**City of Los Angeles
Department of Cultural Affairs
Announces
Artists Participating In
CURRENT:LA FOOD
Second Iteration of LA's Public Art Triennial**

CURRENT:LA FOOD to Include 15 Public Art Projects Across the City

Los Angeles – The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) is pleased to announce the artists participating in the second iteration of its citywide Public Art Triennial, **CURRENT:LA FOOD**. The event will take place October 5, 2019 through November 3, 2019 across the city and in each of its 15 City Council Districts. The month-long exhibition will focus on the topic of food.

CURRENT:LA FOOD will present art projects by 15 national and international artists and teams of artists who have taken on the global issue of food to highlight and encourage the discussion of topics such as: eliminating food deserts, supporting urban agriculture, improving food distribution systems, and strengthening food equity. Commissioning art installations, performances, and events in public parks, **CURRENT:LA FOOD** aims to engage visitors in a discussion that affects not only Los Angeles residents, but also the broader global community through the exploration of art.

“Los Angeles is a creative capital — a place where the world comes to dream and do,” said Mayor Eric Garcetti. “By bringing world-class art out of museums and into our City’s public spaces, **CURRENT:LA FOOD** is democratizing the way we engage with art while sparking meaningful discussions about equity and sustainability.”

CURRENT:LA FOOD is organized by a lead curatorial team from the Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (ICA LA) represented by Asuka Hisa (Director of Learning and Engagement, ICA LA) and Jamillah James (Curator, ICA LA) as well as curatorial advisors: Lauren Mackler, independent curator, founder of Public Fiction, and co-curator of *Made in LA 2020*, Hammer Museum; Diana Nawi, independent curator and co-curator of Prospect.5, New Orleans; and Marco Rios, artist and Curator at the Luckman Gallery, California State University, Los Angeles.

DCA's **CURRENT:LA FOOD** artists are:

Eva Aguila & Coaxial Arts Foundation

Cooking Sections

Adrià Julià

Nancy Lupo

Shana Lutker

Emily Marchand

Julio César Morales & Max La Rivière-Hedrick

Nonfood

Michael Queenland

Michael Rakowitz

Carolyn Pennypacker Riggs & Annie Gimás

Ry Rocklen

Torolab

Jazmin Urrea

Nari Ward

“**CURRENT:LA FOOD** is an exquisite offering of a variety of art forms that contributes to the community’s creative learning, advancing the conversation about global food issues. DCA’s **CURRENT:LA** initiative increases access to the incredible work of these artists for free; invites people to engage with food issues through art and view the works via LA’s public transportation system; and builds the civic dialog about art and the issues that challenge us as the human family,” said Danielle Brazell, General Manager of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs.

“ICA LA is honored to be a curatorial partner for this edition of **CURRENT:LA**. Through 15 public art works by local and international artists, we turn to the wonder of food, art, and place. **CURRENT:LA FOOD** invites us to engage and reflect on the food issues that surround us and capture new ideas through the lens of art. It will be a great way to adventure throughout the city of Los Angeles,” said Asuka Hisa, Director of Learning and Engagement, ICA LA.

“Nothing brings people together like art and food. With the addition of parks and open spaces, a ripe environment is provided for bonding and discovery,” said Michael Shull, Department of Recreation and Parks General Manager. “We are excited to partner with the Department of Cultural Affairs in this innovative endeavor to make art in parks accessible and educational experiences centered on a theme everyone loves.”

“In Los Angeles and other American cities, public art is a conduit for civic expression, a public comment on our democracy. **CURRENT:LA FOOD** serves the city in many ways by providing a communal space in our parks where visitors will be able to interact and engage with thought-provoking art that will inspire the issues surrounding food,” said Sean Woods, Superintendent of California State Parks.

“Residents and visitors will have this unique opportunity to experience contemporary art, artists, and Los Angeles neighborhoods through a new lens and participate in the conversation about food issues while traversing LA neighborhoods,” added Felicia Filer, DCA Public Art Division Director and Founder of **CURRENT:LA**.

CURRENT:LA FOOD partners include: the Office of the Mayor Eric Garcetti; the Los Angeles City Council; the Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks; the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation; Los Angeles State Historic Park; Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department - Ted Watkins Memorial Park; the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority; California State University, Los Angeles; and Public Media Group of Southern California - KCET's Artbound.

About CURRENT:LA

CURRENT:LA puts a new spin on traditional international triennials by democratizing the way people access art. The initiative shifts art away from the museum environment and places temporary public art projects and public programs in the neighborhoods of Los Angeles where residents and visitors live, work, and play.

CURRENT:LA uses contemporary art as a way to deepen connections on issues affecting Los Angeles and other global cities to inspire civic discourse on those particular issues.

CURRENT:LA is funded by the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs. For more information about **CURRENT:LA FOOD**, please visit currentla.org or follow **CURRENT:LA** on Facebook, Instagram @current_la, and Twitter @current_la.

About CURRENT:LA FOOD

Food culture is more diverse today, offering more possibilities for exploration than ever before. From modern scientific experiments to the revival of local ethnic traditions, these developments are cause for wonder and celebration. And yet, we have food that is increasingly unhealthy and is unjustly distributed, while hunger and malnutrition continue to plague demographics around the world. The contributing artists for **CURRENT:LA FOOD** will highlight the advances — as well as the challenges — we face as producers and consumers.

Through major public art commissions and public programs with local, international, and multigenerational artists, **CURRENT:LA FOOD** will explore the multiplicity of food. Placement of the **CURRENT:LA FOOD** projects within LA's burgeoning public transit infrastructure will allow for greater exploration and access, bringing these projects directly to residents and visitors throughout the city. Through an intricate partnership between artists and community members, **CURRENT:LA FOOD** will shed new light on the precarious balance between pleasure and peril found in food today, and the many ways food gives expression to social and political life.

About the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs

As a leading, progressive arts and cultural agency, DCA empowers Los Angeles's vibrant communities by supporting and providing access to quality visual, literary, musical, performing, and educational arts programming; managing vital cultural centers; preserving historic sites; creating public art; and funding services provided by arts organizations and individual artists.

Formed in 1925, DCA promotes arts and culture as a way to ignite a powerful dialogue, engage LA's residents and visitors, and ensure LA's varied cultures are recognized, acknowledged, and experienced. DCA's mission is to strengthen the quality of life in Los Angeles by stimulating and supporting arts and cultural activities, ensuring public access to the arts for residents and visitors alike.

DCA advances the social and economic impact of arts and culture through grant-making, public art, community arts, performing arts, and strategic marketing, development, design, and digital research. DCA creates and supports arts programming, maximizing relationships with other city agencies, artists, and arts and cultural nonprofit organizations to provide excellent service in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles.

For more information, please visit culturela.org or follow us on Facebook at: facebook.com/culturela, Instagram [@culture_la](https://instagram.com/culture_la), and Twitter [@culture_la](https://twitter.com/culture_la).

About the Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (ICA LA)

The Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (ICA LA) is an epicenter of artistic experimentation and incubator of new ideas. Founded in 1984 as the Santa Monica Museum of Art (SMMoA) and reestablished in 2017 with a new identity and home in Downtown Los Angeles, ICA LA builds upon a distinguished history of bold curatorial vision and innovative programming to illuminate the important untold stories and emerging voices in contemporary art and culture. ICA LA's mission is to support art that sparks the pleasure of discovery and challenges the way we see and experience the world, ourselves, and each other.

ICA LA is committed to upending hierarchies of race, class, gender, and culture. Through exhibitions, education programs, and community partnerships, ICA LA fosters critique of the familiar and empathy with the different. ICA LA is committed to making contemporary art relevant and accessible for all. Admission is free.

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#CURRENTLA