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\$20 million federal grant launches AI institute for better crops, agricultural production

LA Art Show has strong UCLA vibe

Two UCLA alumni, Carmen Argote and Zeynep Abes, are part of this year's DIVERSEartLA program at the LA Art Show, which was curated by UCLA professor Chon Noriega.

Noriega, a distinguished professor of film, television and digital media in the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television, said he was drawn to the new works by Argote and Abes, which were created and experienced entirely online during the pandemic. Now, their multimedia installations will be on view in person for the first time in the exhibition "Immersive Distancing," presented by UCLA's Chicano Studies Research Center.

"Immersive Distancing" is part of the DIVERSEartLA section of the LA Art Show, which opens Thursday, July 29, and runs through Sunday, Aug. 1 at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

This is the fourth exhibition Noriega has curated for LA Art Show. DIVERSEartLA's 2021 focus women and non-binary artists bringing together art, science and technology, for which both whose piece is titled "Last Light," and Abes, whose piece is titled "Memory Place," were a na

"Their works offer a new way of thinking about home and the urban landscape," Noriega said "Ironically, the iPhone and internet made it possible for the artists to make these works durin 'shelter at home' phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing them to work around the neces: distancing, while the fact of having to do so also foregrounded the inherent isolation and nor presence of social media."

Using photographs, video and photogrammetry, Argote and Abes integrate their experiences Angeles during the first phase of the COVID-19 lockdown as part of the work itself, revealing in which they navigated isolation, loneliness and challenging personal situations.

Carmen Argote

Shot during the first wave of the pandemic, the artist Carmen Argote's first film, "Last Light," is a meditation on walking and memory in Los Angeles. Argote describes her walking habit as synonymous with thinking, a way of taking in and digesting the conditions of her environment. Through walking, the artist "deconstructs and reconstructs my ideas, thoughts and self." Noriega watched and re-watched their online works during a 14-day quarantine, feeling a sei immersion in the isolation.

"The artists were pulling in the viewer and immersing them in visual stories about the loss of certain presence in the world, where one no longer feels directly connected to the past, a so and a sense of home," said Noriega, who recently stepped down as director of the Chicano S Research Center. "That immersion is a complicated thing. How does one capture loss? I feel work offers a subtle answer in their meditative nature ... Carmen's walks across Los Angeles,

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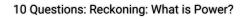
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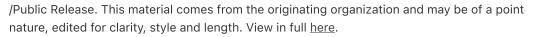
Zeynep's flights between her native Istanbul and her new home in Los Angeles. There is no e answer, but you get a sense of their resilience through movement, looking and listening."

Noriega encountered Argote, who holds an M.F.A. from the UCLA art department as he reseat the 2017 Los Angeles County Museum of Art exhibition "Home — So Different, So Appealing. met Abes virtually after Noriega participated in 2020 installment of UCLA School of the Arts Architecture's "10 Questions" series. Abes was inspired by the conversation around "What is Power?" drawing parallels between the experiences of Latino artists in the United States that Noriega discussed and her own experiences in Turkey. She earned an M.F.A. in design media

Now in its 26th year, the LA Art Show partners with Los Angeles's major art institutions, as w features artworks from 120 galleries and across 23 countries.

"I wanted the 'Immersive Distancing' exhibition to bring these artists' work into public space, it has only been seen online," Noriega said. "Given the power and impact of their work, the 2! square-foot space of the LA Art Show seemed appropriate."





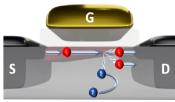


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