



THE LINDA PACE FOUNDATION PRESENTS

Alejandro Diaz: It Takes a Village
April 18 – September 12, 2015

OPENING RECEPTION: Friday, April 17, 6-8pm
ARTIST TALK: Saturday, April 18, 2-3pm

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS (APRIL 13, 2015)—The Linda Pace Foundation presents *It Takes a Village*, a solo exhibition of work by New York-based artist Alejandro Diaz. The exhibition focuses on Diaz's eclectic and satirical aesthetic, featuring a series of new works comprising sculptures, paintings, and a site-specific installation, as well as a hand-woven tapestry from 2014. *It Takes a Village* will be on view at SPACE, the Linda Pace Foundation gallery, from April 18 to September 12, 2015.

As an artist with a national voice, Diaz grew up in San Antonio, Texas and much of his work is influenced by the contemporary Mexican/Texan cultures of his youth. *It Takes a Village* uses pop, modern, and folkloric works of art as its starting point, and evokes previous artists or art movements that combined high and low art, often using language and humor as a form of cultural and socio-economic critique.

Works in the exhibition include ***This is not a Calder*** (2014), made of hand-dyed, hand-woven wool and produced in Mexico in collaboration with the renowned Taller de Gobelinos in Guadalajara, Mexico. The work references both Calder and Magritte, presenting a tongue-in-cheek reinterpretation of the paradoxical painting. ***Facebook Likes*** (2015) references a series of cardboard signs Diaz made in 2003 and sold on the streets of Manhattan to passersby. Continuing in the tradition of sign making, Diaz later translated many of his pithy slogans into neon and most recently into the medium of painting. *Facebook Likes* functions as both a conceptual, text-based work of art and an everyday, non-art commercial sign.

Other new works include ***The Color Field*** (2015) a solid yellow painting that references minimalist color field painting from the 1940s – 1960s. The work also includes Mexican marketplace souvenirs on a pedestal below the painting, drawing a link between the artist's use of high and low materials. A new painting on canvas, ***I'm Exhausted*** (2015), mimics 1950s Abstract Expressionist painting, and is both a humorous critique on high art and painting, and a commentary on the exhausting life of an artist struggling to make it in New York.

It Takes a Village (2015) is a new, site-specific work that will be installed in a large glass vitrine

and includes various found objects, including Mexican clay figurines, artificial aloes, a plastic radio, a marble statue, Spanish moss, and Mexican colonial painting, among others. Referencing a world's fair pavilion, *It Takes a Village* is part department-store window, part architectural model, part Mexican nativity scene. The work is characteristic of Diaz's interest in art as a form of public engagement and political and cultural commentary.

Also on view will be a series of new sculpture works called ***Muebles*** (2015), a series of cast-resin, life-size pieces of furniture that are in the shape of migrant workers, representing stereotypes of the Mexican identity. Diaz explains, "The Spanish word *Muebles* (furniture) comes from the Latin *Mobilis* which means something that is movable or easy to move. These sculptures co-opt Allen Jones' high art furniture of the 1960s to draw attention the plight of Mexican immigrants and to Mexican-American culture as a whole — as a commodity that when no longer needed can be easily moved or removed like a piece of furniture."

Linda Pace Foundation Trustee and Curator Kathryn Kanjo adds, "Diaz reflects the creative, cultural energy of San Antonio--the same energy that so inspired Linda Pace. He filters challenging, social subject matter through visual art tropes that seem to simultaneously critique and celebrate their subjects. With works that are declarative, bold, and playful, he is one of the core artists that helped define the San Antonio contemporary art community in the 1990s."

Opening Weekend Events

Opening Reception: Friday, April 17, 2015, 6-8pm

Artist Talk: Saturday April 18, 2015, 2-3pm

About Alejandro Diaz

Based in New York City, Diaz is originally from Texas where he developed a pertinent body of work exemplifying the complex and visually rich cultural milieu particular to South Texas and Mexico. Diaz received his MA at the Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College, in 1999. In 2003, Diaz created a major installation for the Havana Biennial titled *I (Heart) Cuba*, an installation of free souvenir items emblazoned with the artist's twist on the familiar New York slogan. He was commissioned by the Public Art Fund, New York's premier presenter of public art, to create 4 large-scale sculptures for the grand concourse in the Bronx (2006). His work was featured in *Phantom Sightings*, a Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) exhibition that traveled to Mexico City, San Antonio, New York, and Houston (2008-2010). He received a Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award for excellence in the visual arts in 2008, and had a solo exhibition at the RISD Museum at the Rhode Island School of Design (2012-2013).

[More Information here.](#)

About Kathryn Kanjo

Kanjo is a Linda Pace Foundation Trustee and is organizing the exhibition. She has a long-standing relationship with Linda Pace, and served as the Executive Director of Artpace San Antonio - the separate non-profit organization founded by Linda Pace - for seven years (January 2000-September 2006) and worked closely with Linda Pace during this time that coincided with Linda Pace's most confident, adventurous, and mature collecting. Kanjo was integral in establishing the concept for CHRISpark and as a Trustee continues to advise on new acquisitions. She is the Chief Curator of the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego. Over her 25-year curatorial career, she has been recognized for her commissions of new works.

About SPACE

SPACE, the Linda Pace Foundation Gallery, presents works from the collection of Linda Pace, as well as related contemporary art exhibitions. SPACE is situated in the northeast corner of CHRISpark, a one-acre outdoor park built in memory of Pace's son that exhibits works from the collection as well as contemporary artists.

SPACE is located in the northeast corner of CHRISpark. Entrance is at 111 Camp Street, San Antonio, TX 78204.

Tel: 210.227.8400 | Web: www.lindapacefoundation.org

Hours: Wednesday–Saturday, 12PM–5PM.

SPACE is free and open to the public.

About the Linda Pace Foundation

The [Linda Pace Foundation](http://www.lindapacefoundation.org) is committed to the charitable vision of its founder. Guided by the donor's conviction that contemporary art is essential to a dynamic society, the Linda Pace Foundation fosters the creation, presentation, and understanding of innovative expression through contemporary art. Grants support the International Residency program of Artpace, CHRISpark, the public exhibition of Pace's contemporary art collection, and the work of contemporary artists.

The Linda Pace Foundation publicly exhibits its collection through loans to museums and SPACE, its public exhibition gallery opened in April 2014. Free and open to the public Wednesday through Saturday, 12 noon - 5PM, SPACE showcases the collection of late philanthropist and artist Linda Pace, as well as related contemporary art exhibitions on an ongoing basis. Visitors enter through CHRISpark to access SPACE, experiencing the meandering beauty of another of Linda Pace's creations, founded in loving memory of her son.

Since 2007, the Foundation has loaned more than 200 works to the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Bass Museum of Art in Miami Beach, the Tate Museum in London, MASS MoCA in North Adams, Mass., the Brooklyn Museum in New York, the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Denmark, and the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Monterrey - MARCO in Mexico and others.

The Foundation fulfills Linda Pace's vision of supporting the work of international contemporary artists, including those who have had residencies at Artpace. Acquisitions typically echo the themes and character of Pace's own collecting, which favored works that reflected a feminist perspective, engaged social issues, and considered aspects of spirituality and beauty.

Since Linda Pace's death in 2007, the Foundation has steadfastly worked towards realizing her vision, in fact her mandate – to create an artful campus for the community, artists, and the world to experience contemporary art. David Adjaye is to design a building to exhibit the Foundation's growing collection and serve as a destination for contemplation and experience of adventurous artwork from the recent past.

Image Credit: *This is not a Calder*, 2014. Hand-woven tapestry, hand-dyed wool. 73 X 56 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Royale Projects.

For more information visit www.lindapacefoundation.org.

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