



INTER-UNIVERSITY PROGRAM for LATINO RESEARCH

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Fifth Latino Art Now! Conference, Activities and Exhibits Latino Art Now! in Chicago, April 2016

I. Executive Summary

Since 2005 the Latino Art Now! (LAN) Conference and accompanying exhibits and events have been examining the contemporary shifting contours of U.S. Latino art and the cultural forces that constantly shape it. The events are organized in a partnership between the Inter-University Program on Latino Research (presently headquartered at the University of Illinois Chicago) and the Smithsonian Latino Center as well as community based organizations in the cities that have hosted it. The next LAN program will be held in Chicago, April 2016.

The Latino Art Now! has been recognized as the leading national forum for artists, art historians, art professionals, educators, scholars, critics and art dealers in this emerging field of inquiry. Over three hundred people attended last fall's events at the Smithsonian. It was accompanied by the first ever Latino focused art exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Art gallery. It has been held in Los Angeles, New York City and Washington DC.

Although Latino art has made great strides in the last years as an emerging field of inquiry, and most recently was explored within a national context of American art in our previous conference *Nuestra América: Expanding Perspectives in American Art* in Washington, D.C., there was only one piece from the Midwest.

The fifth Latino Art Now! seeks to increase the visibility of Latino art in Chicago and aims to remap the local art activity within a larger national and global context and discourse. Therefore, this Latino Art Now! will be an opportunity showcase Latino Art in Chicago and explore the uniqueness of its contribution to the city, the region and the nation.

We hope that by bringing together exhibits, events and a conference as such underscoring the presence of Latino art in the city, its uniqueness and its contributions to globalizing American cities.