



COLORADO SPRINGS

# Fine Arts Center

at COLORADO COLLEGE

[COLORADOCOLLEGE.EDU/FAC](http://coloradocollege.edu/fac)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Explore ecology, art, and community in special exhibition *Desert ArtLAB: Ecologies of Resistance* at the Fine Arts Center**

*Colorado Springs (Oct. 15, 2018)* – The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College is excited to present *Desert ArtLAB: Ecologies of Resistance* on view Oct. 13, 2018-Jan. 13, 2019 – curated by Andrea R. Hanley, Navajo and organized by the IAIA Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, Santa Fe, NM.

Desert ArtLAB is an interdisciplinary art collaborative, established by museum curator/educator April Bojorquez (Chicana/Rarámuri) and artist/educator Matthew Garcia (Chicano). The collaborative reconceptualizes desert/dryland ecologies not as post-apocalyptic growth of wasteland, but as an ecological opportunity. The exhibition *Ecologies of Resistance* illustrates the artistic process of the collaborative's site-specific ecological installation in the high desert of Southern Colorado through the use of artifacts, archival materials, and botanical samples. The collaborative is transforming a plot of blighted land into a thriving dryland ecosystem that also serves as an edible indigenous landscape. Informed by social sculpture, the collaborative believes artists have the ability to altruistically transform and shape their environments and society. Regrowing indigenous ecologies in community space allows for the revitalization of ecological practice and a reimagining of an indigenous dryland cosmology and aesthetic.

### **About Desert ArtLAB**

Desert ArtLAB, established in 2010, is an initiative dedicated to a experimental public art practice exploring connections between ecology, art, and community. Their work gives voice and identifies complex political and social dilemmas that reveal themselves in their constructed environments through projects that activate public space, promote ecological restoration, indigenous foodways, and a new understanding of living in dryland environments.

[www.desertartlab.com](http://www.desertartlab.com)

April Bojorquez has worked in the museum field nationally and internationally as an educator, curator, and researcher. Formerly, she was the curator at the National Hispanic Cultural Center's Art Museum and is a fellow of the Smithsonian Institution's Latino Museum Studies Program. Bojorquez works within the intersection of art and anthropology exploring new approaches to museum practices in an increasingly plural society. Influenced by participatory practices and social sculpture, Bojorquez employs diverse strategies to produce immersive and interactive environments exploring place, identity, and museum practices. Bojorquez is a 2016 Creative Capital awardee in Emerging Fields.

Matt Garcia's artistic practice investigates ecology, its relationship to knowledge systems, and how media can connect communities to a reclaiming or reimagining of lost epistemology. Garcia is currently an associate professor of Art and Design at Dominican University of California located in the San Francisco Bay Area. Garcia's work has been presented nationally and internationally at venues such as, École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts (Paris, France), Museum of Contemporary Native Art – MoCNA (Santa Fe, NM), Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara, The International Symposium on Electronic Art (2012, 2015), Balance-

Unbalance Festival (Noose, Australia) and HASTAC (Lima, Peru). Garcia is a 2016 Creative Capital awardee in Emerging Fields. [www.mdgarcia.com](http://www.mdgarcia.com)

### ***Desert ArtLAB: Ecologies of Resistance***

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**When:** Oct. 13, 2018-Jan. 13, 2019

**Where:** Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, 30 W. Dale St.

**Admission:** FREE

**Something else:** This program is part of the *For Freedoms 50 State Initiative* developed to spur greater participation in civic life by generating discussion of values, place and patriotism through the arts. Learn more at <https://www.forfreedoms.org/50-state-initiative.html>

**More:** October is Arts Month! Each October, Colorado's Pikes Peak region celebrates Arts Month to elevate the visibility and value of arts and culture in our community. The goal is to engage the community and encourage every individual to have at least one new cultural experience with friends and family this October. View a full listing of FAC Arts Month events online.

#### **Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College**

The story of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) begins with the founding of the Broadmoor Art Academy by Julie and Spencer Penrose in 1919. During the Great Depression, three dedicated philanthropists – Julie Penrose, Alice Bemis Taylor, and Elizabeth Sage Hare – envisioned expanding the Broadmoor Art Academy into an entire arts district under one roof. The FAC changed its name, built a grand building, and opened as the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center in 1936. In August 2016, the FAC announced an historic alliance with Colorado College and on July 1, 2017, became the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College. The FAC is deeply rooted in the legacy of its founders, who possessed bold visions, a deep passion for the arts, and dedication to the Colorado Springs community. The FAC honors this legacy and spirit today by providing innovative, educational, and multidisciplinary arts experiences designed to elevate the individual spirit and inspire community vitality, building on its history as a unique cultural pillar of the Pikes Peak region. For more information, visit [coloradocollege.edu/fac](http://coloradocollege.edu/fac)

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