

SANDY RODRIGUEZ  
YOU WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN



**CJG** CHARLIE JAMES GALLERY  
CHINATOWN, LOS ANGELES

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# SANDY RODRIGUEZ

## YOU WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN

Charlie James Gallery is delighted to present *You Will Not Be Forgotten*, the first solo exhibition at the gallery by Los Angeles-based artist **Sandy Rodriguez**, opening Saturday, January 25th and running through March 7th, 2020. A limited edition catalog release will coincide with the opening on January 25 from 6-9pm. On February 22, the gallery will host a walkthrough & reading by Project 1521 from 2-5pm.

*You Will Not Be Forgotten* is an installation of works from Rodriguez's ongoing *Codex Rodriguez-Mondragón* project and is dedicated to the seven Central American child migrants who died in US Customs and Border Protection custody during 2018 and 2019. The twenty works include portraits of the children in life, as well as a large-scale map that marks the incidents in space and time across the US-Mexico border. Among the works is a visual recipe for healing "susto," or trauma, as written in the colonial medicinal manuscript *Codex de la Cruz-Badiano*, authored by an indigenous doctor who survived the 1521 conquest and subsequent plague. The map provides the ingredients for a potion and poultice that includes orchid, two types of plumeria, swallow's nest, river water, sea foam, laurel leaves, and other elements. Ix Chel and Tenten In na are the grandmother goddesses from the Mayan and Nahua pantheons, and they flank the sides of the map. Both deities are associated with medicine, medicinal herbs, healers, and midwives, and are summoned to watch over us and these children on their journey to the land of the dead, so that they can return to visit next fall and every fall.

The installation also includes US Customs and Border Protection-infested border landscapes, with 24-karat gold-leaf constellations from her medicinal-plant field studies in 2019 across Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah. A group of healers associated with treatments for respiratory illness, heart sickness, and influenza are also included. These images are adapted from a second historic text, the Florentine Codex, but are updated with contemporary portraits of scholars with whom Rodriguez has communicated and collaborated with on the Codex series. Each work is created in indigenous color on handmade sacred and ceremonial paper of las Américas and incorporates iconography from both Mayan and Nahua visual cultures and art histories. Every element is researched and cross-referenced with dozens of texts, scholars, and historians over the course of nine months in 2019. Rodriguez hopes that the exhibition offers a space for us to heal the traumas of the present and the past, and to humanize 70,000 migrant children who are currently caged in the United States.

**Sandy Rodriguez** is a Los Angeles-based painter. Her work investigates the methods and materials of painting across cultures and histories. Her *Codex Rodriguez-Mondragón* is made up of a collection of maps and paintings about the intersections of history, social memory, contemporary politics, and cultural production. She was raised in San Diego, Tijuana, and Los Angeles. Rodriguez earned her BFA from California Institute of Arts and has exhibited at a number of regional institutions, including the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego; Art + Practice, Los Angeles; and the Riverside Art Museum. Rodriguez and her work have been featured in the Los Angeles Times, on KCET.org, Spectrum News 1, and on several radio programs, including KCRW's Press Play, CBC's Radio-Canada Hour le Monde, KQED's Statewide Report, and KPCC's Off Ramp. Her work was recently acquired by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the JPMorgan Chase Art Collection.

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Healer No. 1: Treatment for  
romadizo, a viral infection  
of the upper respiratory  
Hand-processed watercolor on  
amate paper  
47 × 31.5 inches  
2019



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Felipe Alonzo Gómez (age 8)  
Hand-processed watercolor  
on amate paper  
22.75 × 15.33 inches  
2019

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Carlos Gregorio Hernández  
Vásquez (age 16)  
Hand-processed watercolor  
on amate paper  
22.75 × 15.33 inches  
2019



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Juan de León Gutiérrez (age 16)  
Hand-processed watercolor  
on amate paper  
22.75 × 15.33 inches  
2019



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Darlyn Cristabel  
Cordova-Valle (age 10)  
Hand-processed watercolor  
on amate paper  
22.75 × 15.33 inches  
2019

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Mariee Juárez (age 1)  
Hand-processed watercolor  
on amate paper  
22.75 × 15.33 inches  
2019



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Jakelin Amei Rosmery Caal  
Maquin (age 7)  
Hand-processed watercolor  
on amate paper  
22.75 × 15.33 inches  
2019

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Wilmer Josué Ramírez Vásquez  
(age 2)  
Hand-processed watercolor  
on amate paper  
22.75 × 15.33 inches  
2019

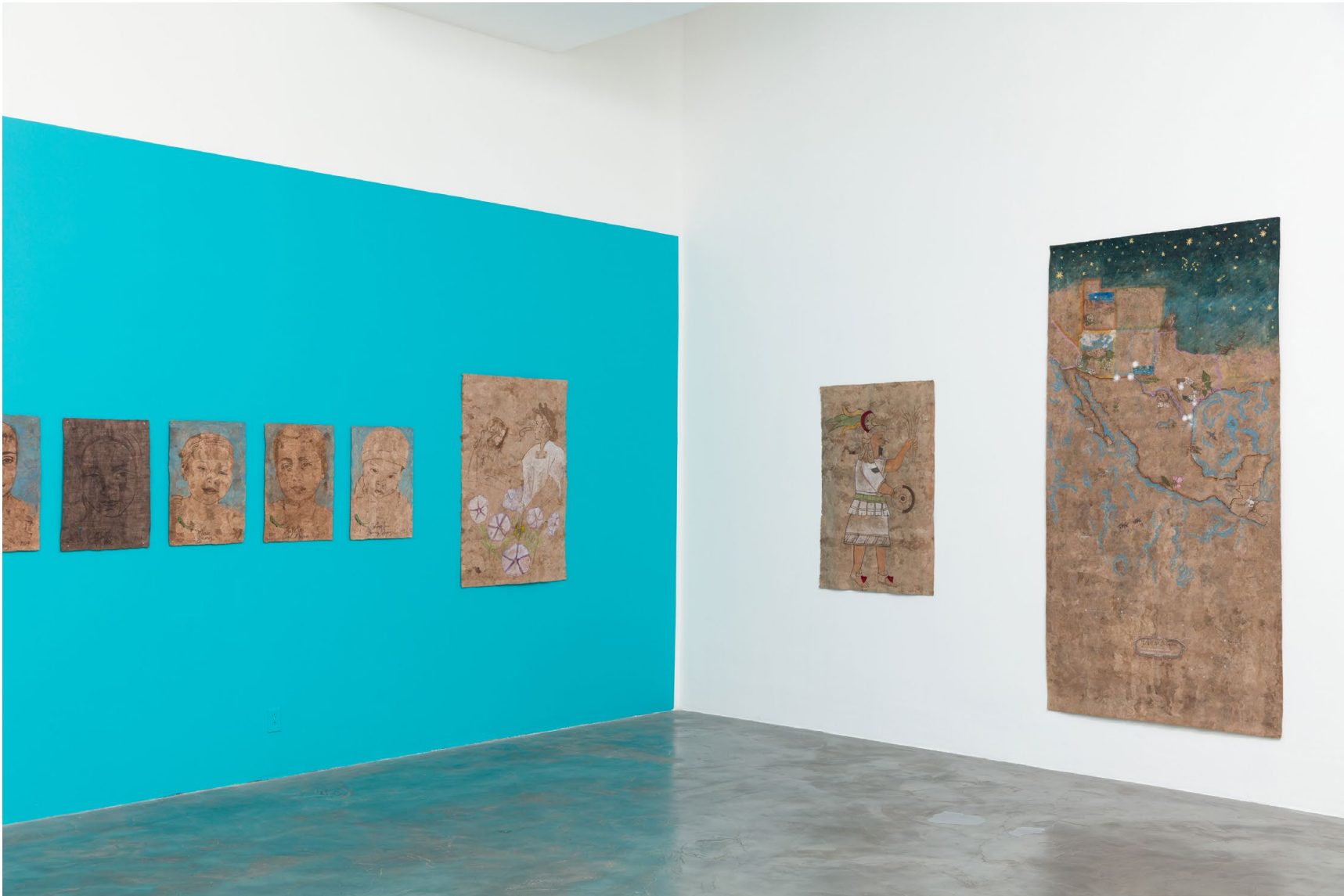


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Healer No. 3: Comforting the  
enfermos (*Lycianthes moziniana*  
for paint of the heart)  
Hand-processed watercolor on  
amate paper  
47 × 31.5 inches  
2019

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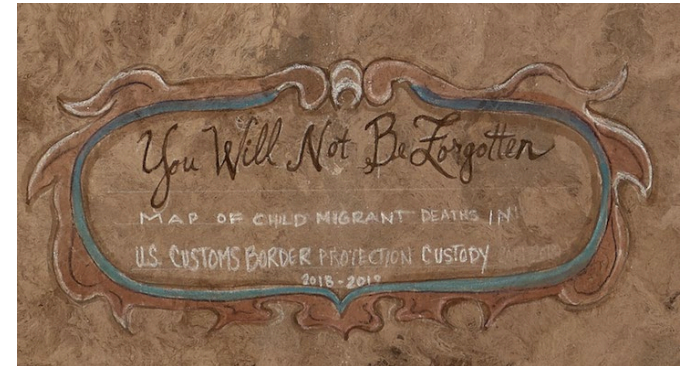
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Teten In na, Nahua diosa de dioses, goddess of medicine and medicinal herbs, worshipped by physicians, surgeons, phlebotomists and midwives  
Hand-processed watercolor on amate paper  
47 × 31.5 inches  
2019



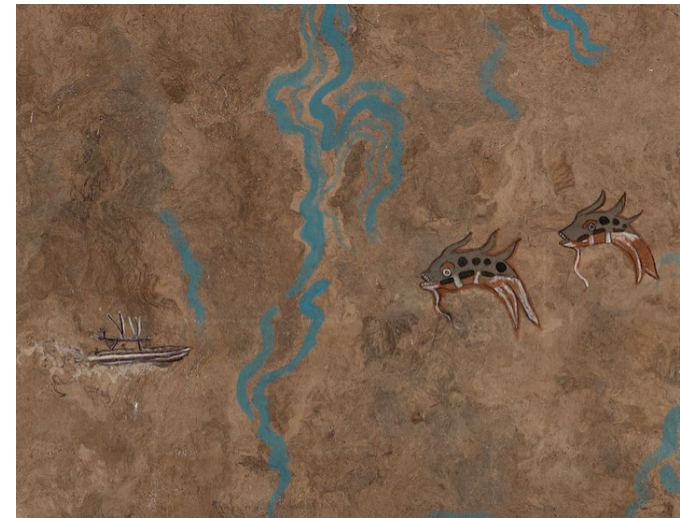
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You Will Not Be Forgotten  
Mapa for the children killed in custody of  
US Customs and Border Protection  
Hand-processed watercolor on amate paper  
94.5 x 47 inches  
2019



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You Will Not Be Forgotten  
Mapa for the children killed in custody of US  
Customs and Border Protection (details)



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Ix Chel, Maya goddess of  
medicine and childbirth, from  
the land of mist and rainbows  
Hand-processed watercolor on  
amate paper  
47 × 31.5 inches  
2019

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Seated Female Figure with  
Monkey and Child (Funerary  
Whistle), A.D. 550-950,  
Guatemala  
Hand-processed watercolor  
on amate paper  
22.75 × 15.33 inches  
2019



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Borderlands No. 2: They almost got me (Pajarita Wilderness)  
Hand-processed watercolor on amate paper  
31.5 x 47 inches  
2019

Week 2 field study 2019 Arizona. Border Enforcement vehicles almost slammed into my rental around 3 am while I was sleeping in the back. I heard multiple vehicles drive right up to my driver's and woke to headlights in a cloud of dust. I freaked and envisioned getting pulled from the car by my greinas and activated the car alarm while staring into the headlights. Just as Tellur responded to my text the SUVs pulled out.  
Pajarita Wilderness off the Ruby Rd - April



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Para el Susto: Cacaloxochitl /  
Flor de Mayo / Plumeria rubra /  
Frangipani  
Hand-processed watercolor  
on amate paper  
22.75 × 15.33 inches  
2019

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Double portrait with nonochton  
for Mariee and Yazmín  
Hand-processed watercolor on  
amate paper  
47 × 31.5 inches  
2019



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Healer No. 2: Harvesting and  
preparing chia leaves para  
aliviar los problemas  
respiratorios  
Hand-processed watercolor on  
amate paper  
47 × 31.5 inches  
2019

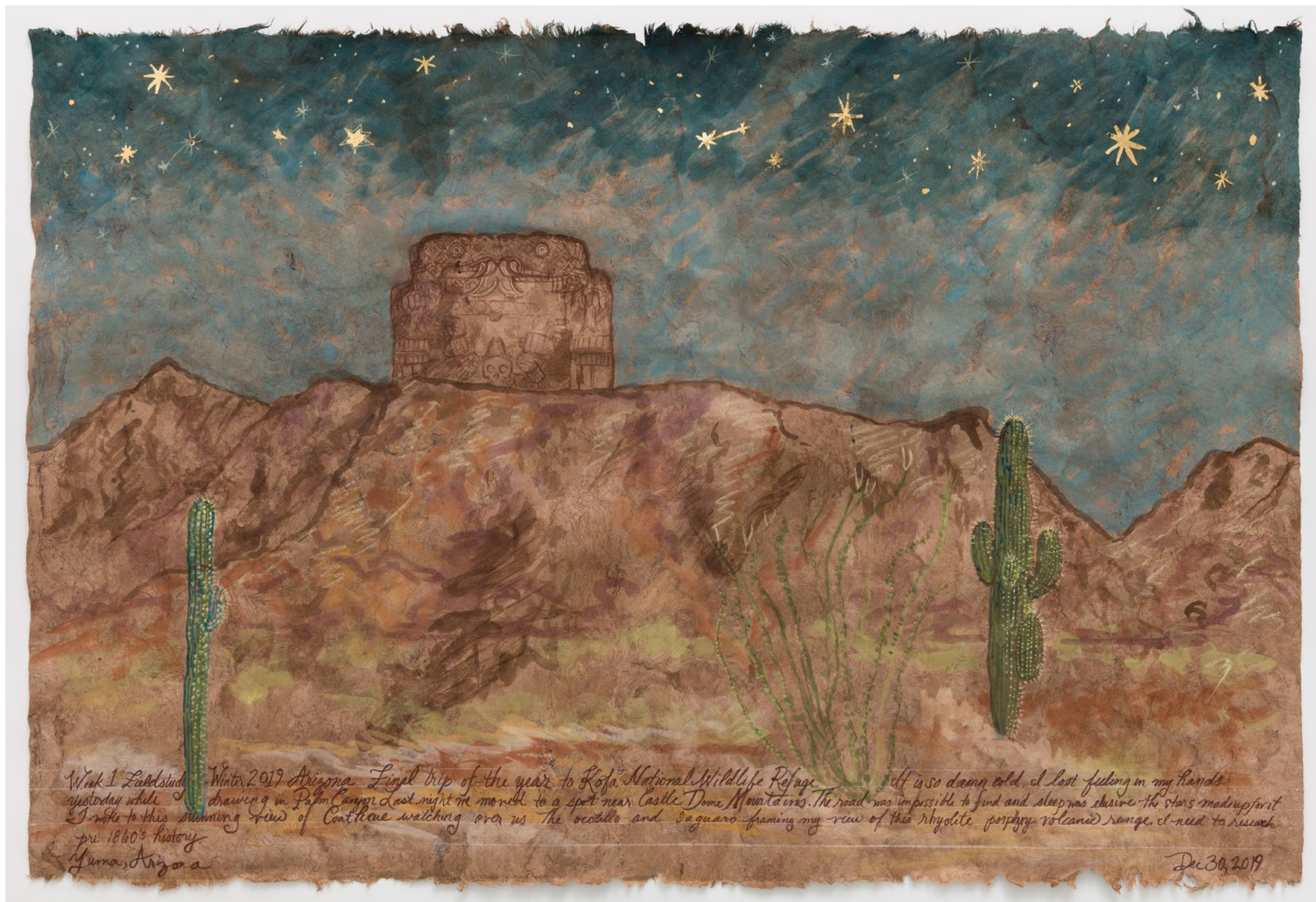
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Para el Susto: Necouh xochitl /  
Flor de cuervo / Plumeria rubra  
f. acutifolia  
Hand-processed watercolor  
on amate paper  
22.75 × 15.33 inches  
2019



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Borderlands No.3 Coatlicue  
at Castle Dome Mountains,  
Arizona  
Hand-processed watercolor  
on amate paper  
31.5 × 47 inches  
2020

Week 1 Field Study Winter 2019 Arizona. Final trip of the year to Kofa National Wildlife Refuge. It is so damn cold, I lost feeling in my hands yesterday while drawing in Palm Canyon. Last night we moved to a spot near Castle Dome Mountains. The road was impossible to find and sleep was elusive - the stars made up for it. I woke up to this stunning view of Coatlicue watching over us. The ocotillo and saguaro framing my view of this rhyolite porphyry volcanic range. I need to research pre 1860s history.  
Yuma, Arizona - Dec 30, 2019



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Para el Susto: Tonatiuh yxiuh  
Hand-processed watercolor  
on amate paper  
22.75 × 15.33 inches  
2020



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Borderlands No.1: Off the  
Ruby Road, April 22, 8:45 a.m.  
Hand-processed watercolor  
on amate paper  
31.5 × 47 inches  
2019

Week 2 Borderlands Field Study 2019 Arizona. These oak grasslands overrun with grazing cattle and Border Patrol SUVs are still among the prettiest landscapes I have ever seen. It feels like home. Those soft golden hills go on and on like your first landscapes. I can't help but see the California Rancho views from yesterday - those hand drawn *Diseños* of the late 19c. Maps of Private Land Grant Cases from the US District Courts. It is in those scribbled oak trees and shadows on the hills. It feels familiar. We are camped out above Sycamore Canyon off the Ruby Road. We will go back in the canyon today. May mom's Luchadora virgen protect us.  
Pajarita Wilderness - April

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## AWARDS

- Alma Ruiz Fellowship, Joshua Tree Highlands Artist Residency, Joshua Tree, CA (2020)
- City of Los Angeles COLA Master Artist Fellowship (2018-2019)
- American for the Arts Public Art Network Year In Review 2017 award (2018)
- Department of Cultural Affairs Cultural Trailblazer Award (2017-18)
- Artist-in-Residence for Los Angeles County Arts Commission (2016-2017)
- Inaugural Artist-in-Residence at Art+Practice (2014-15)

## EDUCATION

- 1997 BFA, Art, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA
- 2017 Independent study, Jeannene Przyblyski, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA

## SELECTED SOLO & TWO PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 Rodriguez-Trevino, Walters Museum, Baltimore, Maryland
- 2020 You Will Not Be Forgotten, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018 Codex Rodriguez - Mondragon, Sandy Rodriguez, Riverside Art Museum, Riverside, CA
- Rodriguez/ Valadez In Vernon, Sandy Rodriguez & John Valadez, East 26 Projects, Vernon, CA
- 2012 Calle Sal Si Puedes and other Places She's Lived, Lyceum, San Diego, CA

## PUBLIC ART PROJECTS

- 2019- Plaza For All Project, Music Center, Los Angeles, CA
- 2017- Sandy Rodriguez: Twenty-Six Views of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Arts Commission- Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital - Recuperative Care Center, Los Angeles, CA

- 2013 Freeway Studies #1 This Side of the 405 Billboard Project, Ben Maltz Gallery, Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles, CA

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 Rethinking the Conquest, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles California
- 2020 ReVision: Art in the Americas, Denver Art Museum, Denver, Colorado
- Castle Garden, Descanso Gardens, Los Angeles, CA
- CALAFIA: Manifesting the Terrestrial Paradise, The MexiCali Biennial, Steppling Art Gallery, SDSU, Callexico, CA
- 2019 De Colores, SUR:biennial, Social/Public Art Resources Center, Venice, CA
- COLA 2019, The Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Hollywood, CA
- 2018 Here, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Hollywood, CA
- CALAFIA: Manifesting the Terrestrial Paradise, The MexiCali Biennial, California State University Robert and Frances Fullerton Museum of Art, San Bernardino, CA
- 2017 South of the Border, curated by Isabel Rojas Williams and Liz Gordon, The Getty Pacific Standard Time: Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA initiative, The Loft at Liz's, Los Angeles, CA
- Chicanitas: Small Paintings from the Cheech Marin Collection - *This exhibition has been on view at the following venues:* Carlsbad Museum and Art Center New Mexico (2017), Amarillo Museum of Art- Amarillo, TX (2016), Art Museum of South Texas- Corpus Christi, TX (2016), Vincent Price Art Museum- Los Angeles (2015), Museum of Contemporary-San Diego, CA (2014), Whatcom Museum-Bellingham, Washington (2013), Ellen Noël Art Museum-Odessa, Texas (2013), Staniar Gallery, Washington & Lee University-Lexington, Virginia (2013), University of Wyoming Art Museum-Laramie,

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- Wyoming,(2013), Museum of Monterey-Monterey, California (2012), Snite Museum of Art, University of Notre Dame-Notre Dame, Indiana (2011), Mesa Arts Center Museum-Mesa, Arizona (2011)
- 2016 Freeze for Frieze Exhibition, Moncler with Royal College of Art, London, UK  
TOTAL PROOF: The GALA Committee 1995-97, Red Bull Studios, New York, NY  
43: From Ferguson to Ayotzinapa, Self Help Graphics, Boyle Heights, CA
- 2015 Dale Brockman Davis, Aalia Brown and Sandy Rodriguez Artist in Residence Exhibition, curated by Jamillah James, Art+Practice, Leimert Park, CA  
Angelinos Presente!, Pico House, Los Angeles, CA  
Manifest: Justice, The Dome, LA, CA
- 2014 Annual Print Fair & Exhibition, Self Help Graphics, Los Angeles, CA  
MUSE-ings: Snapshots of the Arts District, ArtShareLA, Los Angeles, CA  
One for the Road, Hudson Link, Pacific Design Center, West Hollywood CA
- 2013 Catrina Ball, Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, Santa Ana, CA  
Getting off the Ground, Angels Gate Cultural Center, San Pedro, CA
- 2012 Bloodlines: Three Generations - Sandy Rodriguez, Guadalupe Rodriguez and Aurora Perez, Plaza de la Raza, Boathouse Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**
- 2019 Cohen-Aponte, Ananda, and Ella Maria Diaz, "Painting Prophecy: Mapping a Polyphonic Chicana Codex Tradition in the Twenty-First Century" in "Memory, Amnesia, Commemoration," a special issue of English Language Notes, Duke University Press. North Carolina, 2019  
Trujillo, Maria, Sandy Rodriguez: an artist honoring the land and confronting immigration, Art Critique Magazine 2019  
Magaloni, Diana. COLA 2019 Individual Artist Fellowships exhibition catalogue, City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, Los Angeles, CA, pg 66-71  
Garcia, Tanya, a conversation with artist Sandy Rodriguez, Bmore Art  
Rodriguez, Sandy Meet Sandy Rodriguez, Voyage LA  
2018 Miranda, Carolina, "How artist Sandy Rodriguez tells today's fraught immigration story with pre-Columbian painting tools" Los Angeles Times, F1 and F5. Sun Dec. 2, 2018  
Diaz, Ella Maria, and Ananda Cohen-Aponte, "Sandy Rodriguez's Codex Rodriguez-Mondragón," in Sandy Rodriguez: Codex Rodriguez-Mondragón, 9-28. Riverside, CA: Riverside Art Museum, 2018.  
Villaseñor Black, C., Wingate, T., Diaz, E. M., and Cohen-Aponte. A & Guzman - Lopez, A., Sandy Rodriguez: Codex Rodriguez-Mondragón, Riverside, CA: Riverside Art Museum, 2018
- 2017 Rodriguez, Sandy, Keeping the Home Fires Burning, Aztlan: Journal of Chicano Studies, Artist Communique, Volume 42, number 2, Fall 2017, Chicano Studies Research Center Press, UCLA  
Rodriguez, Sandy & Lutterodt, Isabelle: Studio75, A Place We Call Home: East of La Cienega and South of Stocker, Los Angeles County Arts Commission and California Institute of the Arts, Some Place Chronicles, Los Angeles, CA
- 2015 Guzman-Lopez, Adolfo, Ferguson, fire, Mexico City protests ignite LA artist's creativity KPCC and KQED  
Weinberg, Tessa and Arambel, Chloe, Artist Sandy Rodriguez fires up the inaugural A+P Artists-in-Residency Exhibition, Los Angeles Times High School Insider  
Béraud, Anyk, Pour ne pas oublier: les émeutes de Ferguson immortalisées sur la toile, Radio-Canada



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- Munro, Donald, ArtHop: Mother and daughter make a good combo at Arte exhibition featuring California artists, Fresno Bee
- 2014 Bumala, Christian, Art + Practice Art as an Agent of Social Change, The Paper Mixtape, UCLA  
W.S. Di Piero, Portable Paintings Small paintings whisper to you. They tell a secret to you and you only. San Diego Reader
- 2013 Rodriguez, Sandy, Six and a Half Weeks: The Making of 'Opening Night' for the América Tropical Interpretive Center, KCET  
Rodriguez, Eugene, the Chicana/o Biennial, Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana, San Jose
- 2012 Dawson, Jeseca, Studio Visit with Sandy Rodriguez, Otis College of Art and Design  
Bliss, Sharon E., Prison/Culture. City Lights Foundation Books, San Francisco
- 2009 Ruiz, Alma. Women Artists on Immigration Crossing Borders, Confronting Barriers Bridging Identities, Blurp, Los Angeles, (2009)
- RECENT PANELS & PRESENTATIONS**
- 2018 Tête-à-Tête with Fran Siegel and Sandy Rodriguez, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery  
Rodriguez/ Valadez Moderated by Charlene Villasenor  
Black with performance by Adolfo Guzman-Lopez, East 26 Projects, Vernon, CA
- 2017 Legacy of the Chicano Movement: a discussion with Los Angeles Artists, Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach, CA  
Unpanel, SKIN Exhibition Municipal Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2015 Hammer Museum Off-Site Program: Artist in Residence  
Talk: Sandy Rodriguez with Isabelle Lutterodt, Art + Practice, Leimert Park CA
- SELECTED VISITING ARTIST & GUEST LECTURER**
- 2020 Artist talk, Codex Rodriguez-Mondragon, Yale University, New Haven, CT
- 2019 Keynote Speaker, Latin American Studies Conference, CSUSB, San Bernardino, CA  
Artist talk, Bellarmine Forum, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles CA  
Artist talk, Codex Rodriguez-Mondragon, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore Maryland  
Artist talk, Codex Rodriguez-Mondragon, University California, Irvine  
Artist talk, Codex Rodriguez-Mondragon, MICA, Baltimore Maryland  
Artist talk with Ellen Hoobler, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore MD  
Artist talk, Codex Rodriguez-Mondragon, University California, Berkeley  
Artist talk, Codex Rodriguez-Mondragon, University of California, Los Angeles  
Visiting Artist, Fellows Program, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA  
Chicano Studies Resource Center, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018 Artist talk: Colors of the New World with Diana Magaloni Hauser & Wirth, Los Angeles, CA  
Guest Artist Lecturer, Dia De los Muertos in Los Angeles, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia CA  
Visiting Artist, YBCA Fellows Program, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA
- 2017 Guest Artist Lecturer, Dartmouth College, Art History Program, Venice, Italy  
Visiting Artist and Guest Lecturer, Methods & Materials of Ribera and his Contemporaries, Meadows Museum, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX  
Guest Artist Lecturer, Rituals of the Dead, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia CA  
Visiting Artist, YBCA Fellows Program, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA  
Guest Artist, for the Art without Walls program, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA