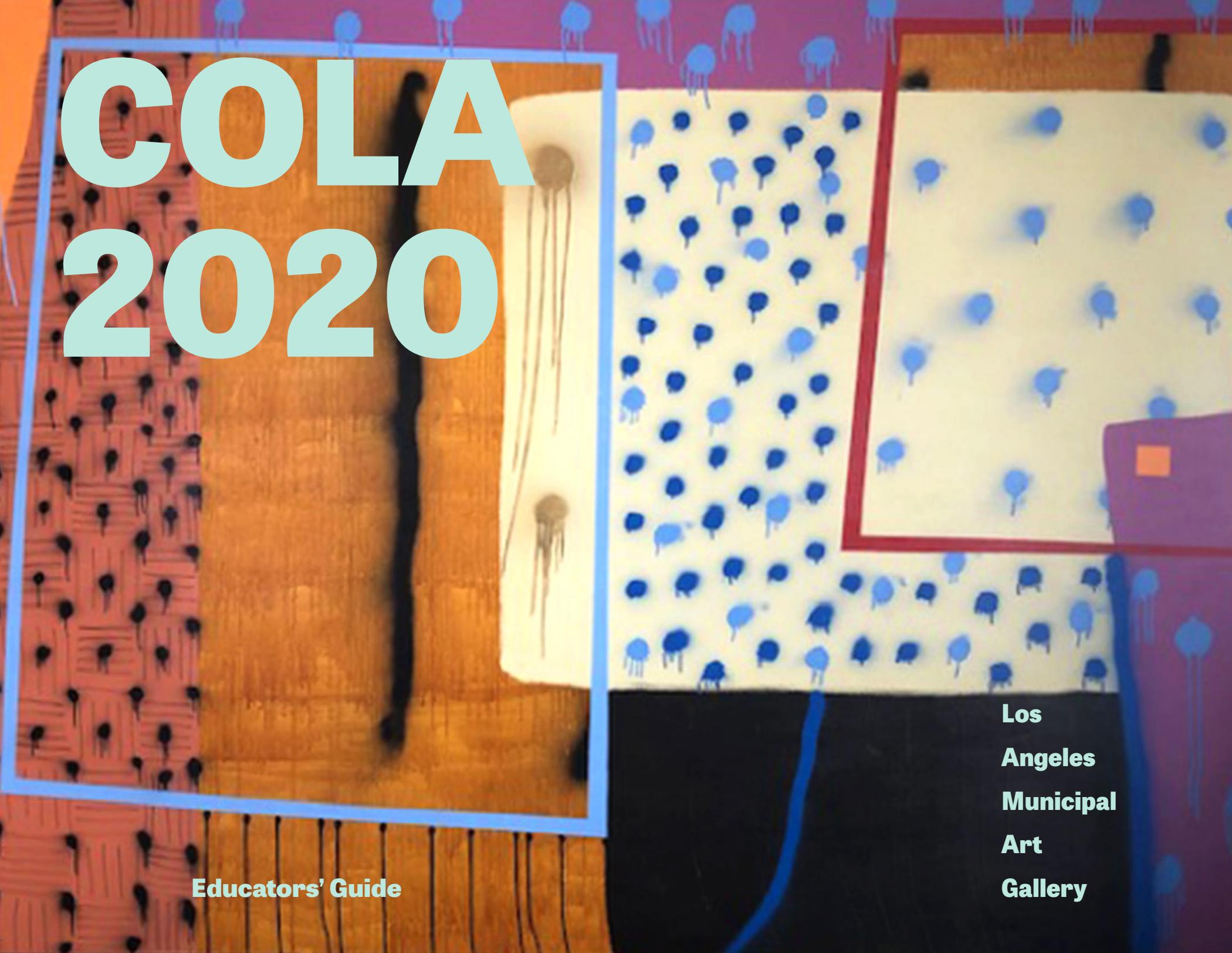


COLA 2020

The background is a complex abstract composition. On the left, a vertical section features a wood-grain texture with a blue border. To its right is a white area with a dense pattern of blue dots, each with a thin blue line extending downwards. Further right is a purple area with a grid of blue dots. At the bottom, there are sections of black and purple with blue lines and dots. The overall style is graphic and layered.

Educators' Guide

**Los
Angeles
Municipal
Art
Gallery**

The Show.

Due to COVID-19, the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) and the Los Angeles Municipal Art gallery (LAMAG) are re-imagining the City of Los Angeles (COLA) 2020 Visual Art Exhibition since the physical exhibition will not take place due to the closure of the gallery. DCA is working with the COLA Fellows and catalog designer, Garland Kirkpatrick, to develop and launch the COLA 2020 Online Exhibitions and Performances Program that will premier and showcase the 2020 Fellows new work instead on culturela.org and lamag.org this summer.

The Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery is pleased to present *COLA 2020*, an exhibition featuring new paintings, drawings, installations, sculptures, sound and video works, by Tanya Aguiñiga, Amir H. Fallah, YoungEun Kim, Elana Mann, Hillary Mushkin, Alison O'Daniel, Vincent Ramos, Shizu Saldamando, Holly Tempo, Jeffrey Vallance and Lisa Diane Wedgeworth. These eleven artists are the recipients of the 2020 City of Los Angeles (COLA) Individual Artist Fellowship for visual arts. The Fellows were selected by a panel comprising curators, educators, museum directors and past COLA Fellows. The fellowship, which was established in 1997 by the Department of Cultural Affairs, provides each artist with \$10,000 to produce a new body of work, for the annual COLA exhibition at the LAMAG.

Follow @lamagbarnsdall on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter for virtual programs with the exhibition artists, related art-making activities, and more.

The Artist.



Amir H. Fallah (b. 1979, Tehran, Iran) lives and works in Los Angeles.

Fallah created a series of intricate, detailed, vibrantly colored drawings focused on the importance of family and his relationship with his five year old son. His autobiographical drawings show a series of life lessons, stories and personal values that he wants to teach his son. The process began with a line of text as the entry point for him to explore the ideas and images he wanted to communicate to his family. As a part of his art practice, Fallah spends a great deal of time planning the composition (layout) of his artworks, which are a “patchwork of imagery”. He will often remain with a single body of work for three to four months. As he works on artworks, he perseveres and keeps pushing through, always exploring - even when he is unsure at that moment what to do next within the artwork. When he reaches a creative block, he perseveres and keeps working and pushing through to continue until he completes the artwork. By the end of the process, the artworks show his creative breakthroughs and discoveries of a particular theme. Fallah received an MFA in Painting from University of California Los Angeles (UCLA).

The Artwork.



The Animals of the World

mixed media

13 x 19 inches

2020

Activity: Draw a symbol animal

Fallah's current artworks are about the importance of family. His drawings of animals, people and **patterns**, communicate and share lessons and values he wants to share with his five year old son. What animal can you draw that tells a story about something important to you?

What you will need

(Look around to see what you have at home and check with a parent or guardian before you use any materials)

- Paper, cardboard or cardstock (or you can draw on clean recycled paper grocery bags)
- Markers, pencil, colored pencils, pens or any writing utensils

Questions for viewing

- What animals do you see in Fallah's drawing? How many can you find?
- What story could you tell about each animal?
- What do you think the animals symbolize (mean)?
- Describe the patterns and colors and how they make you feel. Do they remind you of anything?

Pattern: Lines, shapes and colors that repeat over and over to form a design.

Step 1: Place the paper horizontally. Draw three vertical pencil lines. You will have one large center section and two smaller side sections (as Fallah did in his drawing).

Step 2: In the center section, draw an animal that represents you. In the other two sections, draw patterns, ideas or objects that are special to you.

Step 3: At the bottom right corner, write a sentence about something that is important to you and why you chose the animal in your drawing.

The Artist.



Shizu Saldamando (b. 1978, San Francisco, CA) lives and works in East Los Angeles.

Saldamando's painted portraits show people from different subcultures in Los Angeles. She paints artist friends, those in her social circles or family. Her portraits emphasize the details of a person's facial features and their clothing. The artworks examine themes of identity, gender, relationships and distance. She uses a minimalist (simple) approach for the abstract backgrounds so the viewer will focus on the person in each painting. The people in her portraits have relationships to a specific community or site. In her large-scale COLA portraits, each of the subjects has a connection to Hollywood or the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery. Her goal is to create a dialogue surrounding issues of equality. In Saldamando's teaching practice, she teaches her students to draw and paint what they know as a starting point, to be responsible art makers, to realize the effect of what their artworks mean, and to consider a larger historical context in all that they do and create. Saldamando received an MFA from California Institute of the Arts.

The Artwork.



Michael Alvarez

oil on wood panel

24 x 36 inches

2020

Activity: Portrait of a friend or family member

Saldamando creates realistic painted **portraits** of her friends and family. Each painting only shows one person. The paintings give extra attention to the details of a person's facial features and their clothing. Choose a friend, family member or guardian and draw their portrait. They can be sitting, standing or moving. What does your portrait tell us about the person shown?

What you will need

(Look around to see what you have at home and check with a parent or guardian before you use any materials)

- Any type of paper, including recycled paper or cardboard
- Pencil, colored pencils, markers, pens, pastels or other writing utensils
- *Optional:* Smartphone

Questions for viewing

- What is the first thing you notice about this painted portrait?
- Who do you think this person might be?
- What can you tell about them based on their facial expression, their pose and clothing?
- Who would you paint a portrait of and why? What do your clothes say about you?

Portrait: An image of a person, such as a painting, drawing, photograph, usually showing their face.

Step 1: Choose a photograph of someone special to you. If you have a smartphone, take a photo of a friend or family member, or use a photo already on the phone. You can also ask them to pose for you as you create their portrait!

Step 2: Use a pencil to draw the outline of their head and hair. Then draw the details of their face and their clothing. Use markers, pens or pencil to add colors for their eyes, hair and clothing.

Step 3: Decide if you want a background—or keep it minimal like Saldamando did in her painting. On the back, write the person's name and something special about them.

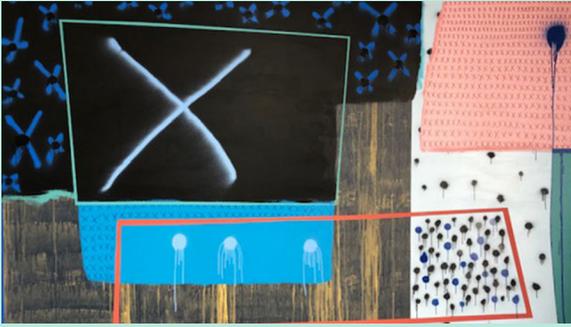
The Artist.



Holly Tempo (b. 1964, Minneapolis, MN) lives and works in Inglewood.

Tempo is interested in the geographic and cultural history of places. Her abstract paintings communicate stories of marginalized, underserved communities. She creates an abstract visual language in her paintings through her use of color, lines, mark-making, shapes, form, symbols, graffiti-like gestures, stars, X's, drips, dots and designs. These elements express the details of what she sees during her ritual of daily walks through her Inglewood neighborhood and other communities. Her artworks reflect both pleasant and unpleasant scenes such as gardens, wildflowers, trees, birds, children playing, trash, stray animals as well as untended sidewalks, homelessness, stains on the asphalt, graffiti and gentrification. Tempo's goal is to show contradictions and to re-imagine her neighborhood as a cultural landscape or "scapes" that shows more than only stereotypes and generalizations about people in her community. Additive and subtractive painting and mark-making techniques create layers that represent the hidden and double meanings of what she sees around her. Tempo received an MFA in Painting from Claremont Graduate University.

The Artwork.



*The Battle of Marathon,
Crenshaw and Slauson*
acrylic, house paint, spray
paint, marker, and gold leaf
on canvas
72 x 108 inches
2020

Activity: What do you notice abstract drawing

Tempo is inspired by walks around her neighborhood and creates **abstract** paintings from what she sees. Walk through your home and notice the shapes, lines and colors. What you see can be used as inspiration for an abstract drawing or painting. Create your own marks, symbols and designs to add to your abstract artwork. Think of how your artwork tells a story about you, your home or neighborhood.

What you will need

(Look around to see what you have at home and check with a parent or guardian before you use any materials)

- Pencil, pens, markers, colored pencils, pastels or other writing utensil
- Paper (if you don't have paper, you can use clean recycled paper grocery bags or the back of recycled paper)
- *Optional:* Paint and paint brushes

Questions for viewing

- Describe the shapes, marks, lines and patterns in Tempo's painting.
- How do these elements tell a story about her neighborhood?
- Where have you seen these types of marks and lines before?
- What colors, shapes, lines, marks and symbols and materials would you use to create an abstract artwork about your home or neighborhood?

Abstract: Art that uses colors, shapes, lines, forms and marks to achieve its effect.

Step 1: Look at the angles, lines, shapes, colors and patterns in your home and draw them on a piece of paper.

Step 2: Add marks and different types of lines to create new designs. Try using repeating colors, shapes, marks and lines to create a pattern.

Step 3: Write a sentence on the back of the artwork about how these symbols and designs tell something special about your home.

Resources.

Amir H. Fallah <http://www.amirhfallah.com/><http://secondexample.com/>

Holly Tempo <https://hollytempo.com/home.html>

Shizu Saldamando <https://www.cjamesgallery.com/artist-detail/shizu-saldamando>

Cover: Holly Tempo, *Word Up, Homie: The Opposite Side of Blue is Orange, Not Red*, Acrylic, house paint, spray paint, marker, and gold leaf on canvas, 72 x 108 inches, 2020.

COLA Artist portraits by **Josh Caffrey**

Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery



@LAMAGBarnsdall

#LAMAGPlay #LAMAGLearn #COLA2020atLAMAG

Accessibility

It is the policy of the City of Los Angeles to provide access to its programs and services for persons with disabilities in accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, as amended. As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities.

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