

## The Bronx Museum of the Arts Announces The Neighbors, part two, in two parts:

### *Sanctuary: Andrea Bowers and Home: Andrea Aragón*

Second Set of Exhibitions in a Three-Part Series Focused on Culture and Community,  
*Sanctuary and Home* Explores Immigration, Activism, and Assimilation

**Bronx, New York—September 15, 2016**—Opening October 12, The Bronx Museum of the Arts will present **The Neighbors, part two, in two parts: *Sanctuary: Andrea Bowers and Home: Andrea Aragón***, a two-artist exhibition exploring themes of geographic and cultural border-crossing. Conceived in two halves, *Sanctuary* includes a body of work by Andrea Bowers drawing from the experience of an undocumented woman seeking political asylum, while *Home* presents a series of photographs by Andrea Aragón documenting the effects of emigration from her native Guatemala. As the second installment of a three-part exhibition series curated by **Sofia Hernández Chong Cuy** to explore the aesthetic responses of culturally diverse artists to the immigrant experience, *The Neighbors* presents two distinct perspectives on cultural uprooting and belonging, as well as social mobility and political resistance.

The *Sanctuary* section of the exhibition includes installations and drawings by Los Angeles-based artist **Andrea Bowers** inspired by her interviews with once-undocumented immigrant Elvira Arellano, who took political asylum—or sanctuary—in a church in Chicago, and was eventually separated from her American-born son when deported to Mexico in 2007. *Sanctuary* also includes a succession of drawings from her 2010 installation *No Olvidado (Not Forgotten)*, which memorializes the names of individuals who have died while attempting to enter the U.S. from Mexico. Continuing her mission of artistic activism, Bowers created a new drawing sourced from a Los Angeles rally themed “Keep Families Together.”

The *Home* section of the exhibition features a series of photographs by Guatemalan photographer **Andrea Aragón** that pictorially connect local Guatemalans with their family members in the U.S. Produced between 2000 to 2016, these individual and group portraits capture her subjects’ immediate environments in the village streets or in personal homes. The use of symbolism, specifically the American flag; markers of class mobility; and signs of communication between those who leave and those who stay all speak to the larger theme of immigration and its effect on cultural and personal identity.

*The Neighbors* weaves together accounts of loss and domestic disruptions that occur during or post-relocation, expanding on the first installment of the three-part *Neighbors* series, *Caza*, by continuing to trace the cultural roots and backgrounds of original communities and immigrant families. *The Neighbors* exhibition series features work by artists Andrea Aragón, Firelei Baez, Andrea Bowers, Rochele Gomez, Ignacio Gonzalez-Lang, Margaret Lee, Irvin Morazan, and Alejandra Seeber. For each exhibition, the graphic designer Gerardo Madera is producing a gallery leaflet out of his Common Satisfactory Standard print shop.

#### **About Andrea Bowers**

Andrea Bowers (b. 1965, Ohio, U.S.) lives and works in Los Angeles. Recent solo exhibitions include: *In Situ I- Andrea Bowers* (2014), Espace Culturel Louis Vuitton, Paris; *#sweetjane* (2014), Pomona and

Pitzer College Museum of Art, Claremont; *Transformer* (with Olga Koumoundouros) (2014), The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs; and *The Weight of Relevance* (2007), Wiener Secession, Vienna, which traveled to The Power Plant, Toronto. This year, Bowers had solo exhibitions in her galleries, Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York, and Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects. This fall, her work will be showcased in the group exhibition *Take Me (I'm Yours)* at the Jewish Museum in New York.

#### **About Andrea Aragón**

Andrea Aragón (b. 1970, Guatemala City, Guatemala) is a photographer working in Guatemala City. In 2015, The 9.99 Gallery in Guatemala presented her most recent solo exhibition. This year, her work is included in the *Bienal Centroamericana*, taking place at the Museo de Arte y Diseño Contemporáneo y San José, Costa Rica, and in the group exhibition *Trama Centroamericana* at Casa de América in Barcelona, Spain. She was one of four photographers that participated in the research project *Arquitectura de Remesas* (2010), organized by the Centro Cultural España in Guatemala, which investigation was published as an illustrated book and also presented as an exhibition that toured internationally. In 2010 and 2015, her work was included in *PhotoEspaña* at the Instituto de Cervantes in Madrid, Spain.

#### **About Sofía Hernández Chong Cuy**

Sofía Hernández Chong Cuy is an art curator who was born in Mexicali, Mexico, and lives in Brooklyn, NY. Since 2011, she has served as the curator of contemporary art for Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros, based in New York and Caracas. She also teaches at the School of the Visual Arts in New York and is as a member of the board of directors of Triple Canopy, a nonprofit art magazine based in New York. Previously, Sofía served as director of Museo Tamayo in Mexico City, held curatorial positions at Art in General and Americas Society in New York, and guest-curated exhibitions for Kadist Art Foundation in Paris, the MALBA in Buenos Aires, and the Center for Contemporary Art in Vilnius, Lithuania. In 2013, Sofía served as artistic director and chief curator of the 9a Bienal do Mercosul | Porto Alegre in Brazil; and before that, she was an agent of dOCUMENTA 13 in Kassel, Germany. In 2009, she initiated the editorial project Murmur.

#### **About The Bronx Museum of the Arts**

The Bronx Museum of the Arts is an internationally recognized cultural destination that presents innovative contemporary art exhibitions and education programs and is committed to promoting cross-cultural dialogues for diverse audiences. Since its founding in 1971, the Museum has played a vital role in the Bronx by helping to make art accessible to the entire community and connecting with local schools, artists, teens, and families through its robust public programming and education initiatives. In celebration of its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Museum implemented a universal free admission policy, supporting its mission to make arts experiences available to all audiences. The Museum's collection comprises over 1,000 modern and contemporary works of art in all media with a focus on works by artists of African, Asian, and Latin-American ancestry, as well as artists for whom the Bronx has been critical to their development.