Uber-Creative, Experiential, Free Outdoor Art Festival

The PASEO Makes Connections this Fall in Taos

La Pocha Nostra, led by the transgressive Chicano performance artist Guillermo Gomez Peña, is this year’s Featured Artists in Residence

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — June 24, 2019 (Taos, NM): Local, national and international artists will come together in Taos this fall to participate in The PASEO 2019 festival on September 13 and 14, 2019. This year’s theme is “Connections.” A series of immersive and participatory art installations will celebrate, contemplate, and question our interactions with each other, nature, and the world. The festival will feature more than 25 works, ranging from low-tech to new media, but united by their active engagement with the public and with place, whether projecting on Taos’s adobe walls or highlighting its historic acequias.

Executive Director Matt Thomas explains, “PASEO 2019 highlights a key ethos of the organization, connections. This year we again take over the streets of Taos, transforming
art and community. The artists and installations selected will again inspire and engage, while reminding us of the greater importance of connecting with each other, our physical world and most importantly, ourselves. PASEO 2019 will feature the wild and wonderful to the quiet and contemplative.”

An international call for entries was held during the winter of 2018-2019. Hundreds of entries came in from all over New Mexico, the nation, and the world. A few highlighted artists coming to The PASEO 2019 are:

La Pocha Nostra (Guillermo Gómez-Peña, Saul Garcia Lopez/La Saula, and Balitronica Gómez), San Francisco, CA is the featured PASEO 2019 Artist in Residence. La Pocha Nostra is a transdisciplinary arts organization that provides a support network and forum for artists of various disciplines, generations and ethnic backgrounds. We are devoted to erasing the borders between art and politics, art practice and theory, artist and spectator. For over 25 years, La Pocha Nostra has intensely focused on the notion of collaboration across national borders, race, gender and generation as an act of radical citizen diplomacy and as a means to create ephemeral communities of rebel artists.

The Living Museum of Fetishized Identities is the next step in their performance research to develop large-scale interactive performance/installations that functioned as “intelligent raves and art expos of Western apocalypse.” This “living museum” is site-specific and is realized from a pre-festival workshop featuring different groups of local and international performers. Original music (live or prerecorded), video projections, cinematic lighting, taxidermied animals and twisted ethnographic motifs helped enhance the high-tech “robo-baroque aesthetic.”

Antonin Fourneau, Paris, France, Waterlight Graffiti
An interactive artwork in the form of a wall of thousands of LEDs illuminating in contact with water. The public is thus invited to express itself on this luminous surface by drawing or writing with a brush or a spray. The concept is based on a simple physical principle, using water as an electricity conductor. Comparable to a switch, the LEDs light up at the slightest touch with the water and go out as the water evaporates.

Jessica Elaine Blinkhorn, Atlanta, GA, LAY WITH ME, 2019
Blinkhorn’s work advocates for individuals who are living within the disabled community. Their performances are situated around routines common to individuals living with disabilities, as well as the perceived differences between the able-bodied and the disabled. During the performance, the artist will be in a hospital bed in an open space and her caregiver will perform a live transfer -- removing her body from her wheelchair to rest in the hospital bed. Individuals are encouraged to get into the bed and lay with her for a moment in order to participate and subsequently educate themselves.
Britney A. King (Diné / Chippewa Cree) and Jennifer Nev-Diaz (Chicana), Albuquerque:  TŌ ÉÍ ÍÎÁ ÂT′É water is life- it connects us; cleanses us; fosters growth, and nurtures the world around us. El Agave is an immersive interactive environment that invites audiences into a participatory and conversational environment. Through the use of video mapping projection and sensors, El Agave is a playground-like space that encourages playfulness, thoughtfulness, and exchange of ideas. It is an opportunity to curate our experience as women of color and embrace the connection between culture, land, and the art of interaction.

The PASEO 2019 at a Glance:
- **What:** The PASEO 2019 Outdoor Art Festival
- **When:** Friday and Saturday, September 13-14
- **Time:** Sunset -11:00pm
- **Where:** Taos Historic District, Taos, NM
- **Cost:** 100% free
- **FACT SHEET (Complete List of Artists/Installations Featured in The PASEO 2019) (We will make this a hyperlink.)

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About the Paseo Project
The Paseo Project’s mission is to transform art through community and community through art. The Paseo Project is a nonprofit 501c3 organization that brings projection, installation and performance art to the streets of Taos. Its new community space, The Hub on Civic Plaza Drive, supports events and experiences for the community throughout the year. The Paseo Project is supported by the Town of Taos, Taos County Lodgers Tax Fund and numerous individuals, foundations, and business sponsors.

PaseoProject.org, @thepaseotaos, #paseotaos, facebook.com/paseotaos, paseo@paseoproject.org

Image Credits: (From Left): La Pocha Nostra (Guillermo Gómez-Peña, Saul Garcia Lopez/La Saula, and Balitronica Gómez), San Francisco, CA; Waterlight Graffiti, Antonin Fourneau, Paris, France.