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For Immediate Release.

MCASB Presents First Ever Exhibition Dedicated to Contemporary Guatemalan Art as part of the Getty-Led Pacific Standard Time LA/LA Initiative

Exhibition: *Guatemala from 33,000 km: Contemporary Art, 1960 - Present*

Opening reception: September 16, 2017, 4 - 8 pm at Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara Community Arts Workshop, and Westmont Ridley-Tree Museum of Art

Exhibition on view: September 17 - December 17, 2017



Above: Efraín Recinos, *Guatemala vista desde 33,000 kms de distancia (Guatemalita)*, 1960, Oil on masonite, 172.8 x 52.8 in., Courtesy of Coleccion John Gody.

Santa Barbara, CA - Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara (MCASB) is proud to present *Guatemala from 33,000 km: Contemporary Art, 1960 - Present*, the first ever museum exhibition dedicated to the study of modern and contemporary Guatemalan art, curated by Miki Garcia and Emiliano Valdés. The exhibition, featuring nearly 100 works from more than 75 Guatemalan artists, is spread across three venues in Santa Barbara - MCASB, Santa Barbara Community Arts Workshop, and Westmont Ridley-Tree Museum of Art - as part of the Getty's Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA initiative, a far-reaching and ambitious exploration of Latin American and Latino art in dialogue with Los Angeles.

Guatemala from 33,000 km is an exhibition of Guatemalan art that traces the emergence of the country's contemporary artistic practices, from the social, political, cultural, and artistic contexts of the second half of the twentieth century and the early twenty-first century. Rather than a straightforward, chronological account of Guatemalan art history, the exhibition considers specific, overarching themes, investigating how trends such as conflict, identity, and landscape emerged in restrictive times and project into the future. The nine themes, or clusters, into which the artworks are grouped include Art & Politics; Art Histories; Formal



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Experimentation; Gender Perspectives; Land, Landscape & Territory; Popular Cultures; Racisms & Identities; Religion, Spirituality & Metaphysics; and Violence & Trauma.

Despite being conceived on the basis of formal thematic groups, the design of the exhibition, by the artist and architect Alejandro Paz, departs from the research structure and proposes a distribution that enhances the relationships between works, generating cross references and multiple possible readings. Each group's pieces have been placed in relation to those of others as if in a constellation, in such a way that the narrative of the exhibition can be woven from different threads and move in different directions. Additionally, all three venues included in the exhibition will house works from each of the nine clusters, creating unique dialogs and experiences at each venue.

The works included in *Guatemala from 33,000 km* span a wide variety of media and speak to a range of formal, political, and social concerns that permeate contemporary art both in Latin America and around the globe. This highly diverse collection of work demonstrates the surprising extent to which artists in Guatemala participated in the broader movements and practices of Latin American art, such as geometric abstraction, performance and conceptual art, and new media, even in the midst of the "long civil war" that has plagued the country since 1960. It points to the fact that even during the worst years of repression and war in their country, artists, both as individuals and collectives, continued to create visual expressions that not only mirrored but directly engaged with the sociopolitical situations of their time, albeit through muted languages and conceptually-oriented presentation.

Accompanying *Guatemala from 33,000 km* will be a publication that promises to be a vital resource for art historians with full-color reproductions of the works in the exhibition as well as essays from Guatemalan and U.S. scholars whose contributions provide a wealth of knowledge surrounding contemporary Guatemalan art. Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara has partnered with Black Dog Publishing, who will print a Spanish version of the publication as well as an English version.

Major support for the exhibition and publication is provided through grants from the Getty Foundation.

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About Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA

Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA is a far-reaching and ambitious exploration of Latin American and Latino art in dialogue with Los Angeles taking place from September 2017 through January 2018. Led by the Getty, Pacific Standard Time LA/LA is a collaboration of arts institutions across Southern California. Through a series of thematically linked exhibitions and programs, Pacific Standard Time LA/LA highlights different aspects of Latin American and Latino art from the ancient world to the present day. With topics such as luxury arts in the pre-Columbian Americas, 20th-century Afro-Brazilian art, alternative spaces in Mexico City, and boundary-crossing practices of Latino artists, exhibitions range from monographic studies of individual artists to broad surveys that cut across numerous countries. Initiated through \$16 million in



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grants from the Getty Foundation, Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA involves more than 70 cultural institutions from Los Angeles to Palm Springs, and from San Diego to Santa Barbara, Pacific Standard Time is an initiative of the Getty. The presenting sponsor is Bank of America. For further information:
<http://www.pacificstandardtime.org/>

About Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara

Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara (MCASB) is a non-profit, non-collecting museum dedicated to the exhibition, education, and cultivation of the art of our time. Formerly Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum (CAF), MCASB is the premier venue for contemporary art between Los Angeles and San Francisco. MCASB is located at the Paseo Nuevo Shopping Center Upper Arts Terrace in downtown Santa Barbara, CA. With the opening of the MCASB Satellite @ Hotel Indigo Santa Barbara in February of 2012, MCASB becomes one museum with two locations. Located in the Hotel Indigo Santa Barbara at 121 State Street, the MCASB Satellite space features yearlong exhibitions of stimulating contemporary artworks.

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