

Carolina Caycedo La Siembra



Saturday, May 7, 2022
2:00–4:00 pm

Vera List Center for Art and Politics
The New School
Union Settlement
237 East 104th Street, New York

About

Carolina Caycedo's *La Siembra* is a 2020–2022 Borderlands Fellowship commissioned project and has been supported by research assistance, production grants, and curatorial guidance by the Vera List Center for Art and Politics at The New School and the Center for Imagination in the Borderlands at Arizona State University. It is presented in collaboration with Union Settlement with support by El Museo del Barrio. Special thanks to Dimitri Gatanas, Urban Garden Center for their donation of the Shadbush tree (*Almelanchier arborea*).

The Vera List Center for Art and Politics is a research center and a public forum for art, culture, and politics. It was established at The New School in 1992—a time of rousing debates about freedom of speech, identity politics, and society's investment in the arts. A leader in the field, the center is a nonprofit that serves a critical mission: to foster a vibrant and diverse community of artists, scholars, and policymakers who take creative, intellectual, and political risks to bring about positive change.

The Center for Imagination in the Borderlands is an Indigenous space at Arizona State University where students, faculty, and guests catalyze and constellate stories, knowledge systems, and language within and across our many borderlands through conversation and performance. The center was founded in 2020 by poet and MacArthur Fellow Natalie Diaz (Mojave, Akimel O'odham) who serves as its director.

Union Settlement is an on-the-ground resource for East Harlem residents of all ages, and a passionate advocate for the needs of underserved communities. Since opening our doors in 1895, we have brought education, wellness and community-building programs to our neighborhood, empowering New Yorkers with opportunities to better their lives. By helping our neighbors realize their goals, we build the vitality and success of East Harlem.

For information on related classes, please visit:
www.newschool.edu.

This event has been recorded and the documentation will be made available on
www.veralistcenter.org.

Image Credit: Carolina Caycedo, *¡LOS QUE MUEREN POR LA VIDA, NO PUEDEN LLAMARSE MUERTOS!*, El Museo del Barrio, in collaboration with the Vera List Center for Art and Politics, September 18, 2021. Photos by Michael Palma, courtesy of El Museo del Barrio and Vera List Center for Art and Politics.

Program

The Vera List Center for Art and Politics is pleased to present *La Siembra*, a performance and roundtable discussion convened by 2020–2022 Borderlands Fellow Carolina Caycedo in collaboration with Union Settlement on Saturday, May 7 at 2pm. Caycedo returns to her September 2021 vigil and pagamento that was hosted in the context of her installation *Genealogy of Struggle** in El Museo del Barrio's *Estamos Bien – La Trienal 20/21*. Compostable items from the vigil have been nurturing the soil in the community garden at Union Settlement, where Caycedo is now planting a memorial tree and installing a sonic marker for murdered environmental activists. The roundtable discussion includes Arizona water protectors Nellie Jo David and Amber Ortega, and Tatiana Roa Avendaño, an environmentalist, educator, and researcher at the environmental organization CENSAT Agua Viva. The discussion is moderated by Romy Opperman, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Philosophy at The New School for Social Research.

PARTICIPANTS

Welcome

Ysabel Abreu, Union Settlement
Natalie Diaz, Center for Imagination in the Borderlands
Carin Kuoni, Vera List Center for Art and Politics

Introduction

Carolina Caycedo

Roundtable Discussion

Tatiana Roa Avendaño
Carolina Caycedo
Nellie Jo David
Romy Opperman
Amber Ortega

Performance

Tree planting ceremony
Sound marker

Reception

Participant Biographies

Tatiana Roa Avendaño is an environmental activist, educator and researcher of Censat Agua Viva, a Bogotá-based NGO working on communication, environmental education and the promotion of alternative development models. As an activist she has fought to “leave fossils in the ground,” being part of networks such as Oilwatch and Alianza Colombia Libre de Fracking. Tatiana participates in the Latin American group Energy and Equity and in the Ecosocial Pact of the South. Tatiana is an engineer and holds a master’s degree in Latin American Studies from the UASB of Quito, Ecuador. She is a PhD candidate at CEDLA – University of Amsterdam.

Carolina Caycedo is a London-born Colombian multidisciplinary artist known for her performances, video, artist’s books, sculptures, and installations that examine environmental and social issues. Her work contributes to the construction of environmental historical memory, as a fundamental element for non-repetition of violence against human and non-human entities. Among others, she held residencies at the DAAD in Berlin, and The Huntington Libraries, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California; received funding from Creative Capital, California Community Foundation, and Prince Claus Fund; participated in the Chicago Architecture, São Paulo, Istanbul, Berlin, Venice, and Whitney Biennials. Recent and upcoming solo shows include *Care Report* at Muzeum Sztuki in Łódź, Poland; *Wanaawna, Rio Hondo and Other Spirits* at Orange County Museum of Art; *Cosmoatarrayas* at ICA Boston; and *From the Bottom of the River* at MCA Chicago. Caycedo is the 2020 Wanlass Artist in Residence at Occidental College in Los Angeles. She is a member of the Los Angeles Tenants Union and the Rios Vivos Colombia Social Movement.

Nellie Jo David is a Tohono O’odham environmental justice activist and member of the TOHRN (Tohono O’odham Hemajkam Rights Network). David holds a Juris Doctorate and a certificate in indigenous law and policy from the University of Arizona.

Romy Opperman is a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Philosophy at The New School for Social Research. My research bridges Africana, continental, decolonial, environmental, and feminist philosophy to foreground issues of racism and colonialism for environmental ethics and justice.

Amber Ortega is a Hia-Ced O’odham water and land protector and Southern Arizona border activist

Vera List Center Fellowship

Vera List Center Fellowships support the development and presentation of ambitious art and research projects by national and international emerging artists, writers, scholars, and activists. Since 1994, the VLC Fellowship program has supported outstanding individuals at key moments in their early- and mid-careers, especially those who are members of underrepresented communities in the art world and those who would otherwise struggle to find support because of the experimental, political, and/or research-intensive nature of their work. The appointments provide the VLC Fellows with the opportunity to draw from the curatorial, academic, and professional resources of the Vera List Center and The New School. As commissions, the resulting fellowship projects are presented to the public through the Vera List Center's interdisciplinary public programs and institutional networks.

The Borderlands Fellowship is a joint initiative of the Center for Imagination in the Borderlands (CIB) at Arizona State University and the Vera List Center for Art and Politics (VLC) at The New School in New York City. The Borderland Fellowships are awarded every two years to two individual artists/scholars/thinkers that pair the distinct institutional resources of the CIB and VLC in order to support research projects that help create communities across different geographical, cultural, and political landscapes engaging the public as well as students at both sites. The fellowships focus on the relevance of place, thus seeking to support and apply an Indigenous lens to reflect on questions of borderlands.

VERA LIST CENTER FELLOWS

Carolina Caycedo Los Angeles, CA 2020–2022	Casey Gollan New York City 2015–2017	Kobena Mercer New Haven, CT 1999	Edward Rothstein New York City 1999
Etcétera Buenos Aires 2020–2022	Margarita Gutman New York City 2001	Lorraine O’Grady New York City 1997–1998	Katya Sander Copenhagen, Denmark 2006–2007
Maria Hupfield Toronto, Canada 2020–2022	Susan Hapgood New York City 1999	Olu Oguibe Storrs, CT 2000	Robert Sember New York City 2009–2011
Rasheedah Phillips Los Angeles, CA 2020–2022	Sharon Hayes Philadelphia, PA 2006–2007	Silvana Paternostro New York City 1997	Joshua Simon Philadelphia, PA 2011–2013
Adelita Husni Bey New York City 2020–2022	Danny Hoch New York City 2000	Wendy Perron New York City 2001	Victoria Sobel New York City 2015–2017
Past Fellows	Ashley Hunt Van Nuys, CA 2006–2007	Marjetica Potrc Ljubljana, Slovenia 2007–2008	Elisabeth Sussman New York City 1999
Lawrence Abu Hamdan Beirut, Lebanon 2015–2017	Helene Kazan London, UK/ Beirut, Lebanon 2018–2020	Leslie Prosterman Washington, D.C. 2001	David Thorne Los Angeles, CA 2006–2007
Maurice Berger New York City 1994	Bouchra Khalili Berlin, Germany/ Tangier, Morocco 2011–2013	Alexander Provan New York City 2013–2015	Jonathan Weinberg New Haven, CT 2002
dean erdmann Los Angeles, CA 2018–2020	Lana Lin & Lan Thao Lam New York City 2009–2010	Walid Raad New York City 2004–2005	
Wendy T. Ewald Rhinebeck, NY 2000	Jill Magid New York City 2013–2015	Sarah Rothenberg Houston, TX 1995	
Andrea Geyer New York City 2006–2007			

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The Board of the Vera List Center for Art and Politics is an integral part of the New School community. They provide counsel to the Vera List Center, develop expertise on ways to support the academic enterprise, offer insight and guidance on programs, provide significant financial support, and serve as ambassadors to the communities in which they live and work.

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UPCOMING

Monday, May 16, 2022

Seminar 12—Breaking Protocols: Desire Lines

Online

6:00–7:30 pm

Breaking Protocols: Desire Lines is the final seminar in the Vera List Center's *As for Protocols* series. It brings together the artist duo Rashaun Mitchell + Silas Riener, with dance artist and audio describer Tess Dworman, architect Jing Liu, and performance curator and scholar Noémie Solomon to examine the notion of "desire lines" and to reflect on the questions: what do you desire from the institutions you're a part of and that are a part of you? The seminar is co-convened with Joshua Lubin-Levy (Part-Time Lecturer, Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts, The New School).

May 20–June 10, 2022

NEO-EXTRA-ACTIVISM—Protocols for Buen Vivir

The Clemente Soto Vélaz Cultural & Educational Center

107 Suffolk Street, New York

Open daily 11:00 am–7:00 pm

The Vera List Center and The Clemente present *NEO-EXTRA-ACTIVISM—Protocols for Buen Vivir*, an exhibition and public performance of multidisciplinary Argentinian collective Etcétera. This exhibition is the last chapter in Etcétera's two-year 2020–2022 Boris Lurie Fellowship, and the first presentation of the collective's work in New York City.

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Studies into Darkness: The Perils and Promise of Freedom of Speech Book Launch

The New School, Glass Box Theater

55 West 13th Street, ground floor, New York

6:30–9:00 pm

Studies into Darkness: The Perils and Promise of Freedom of Speech (Amherst College Press and Vera List Center, 2022) provides a practical and historical guide to free speech discourse and combines it with poetic responses to the contemporary crises around free expression. This program brings together the book's editors Carin Kuoni and Laura Raicovich with several contributors, including artists Mendi + Keith Obadike, who will present their performance *In The Mouth of This Dragon*.
