



1. Tamara Gonzales, *Untitled*, 2020
Alpaca fiber and wool in artists frame
40.5 x 28
2. Tamara Gonzales, *Bom Dia Maria*
(*Good Morning Mary*), 2018, acrylic,
spraypaint, and pastel on canvas
60 x 72 inches

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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General Information:

Providence College Galleries
—Hunt-Cavanagh Gallery
at Hunt-Cavanagh Hall,
—Reilly Gallery at the
Smith Center for the Arts
Providence College
Providence, RI 02918

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On the Wall: Tamara Gonzales
PCG's Reilly Gallery, Smith Center for the Arts
March 17 – October 2, 2021

Virtual Artist Talk:
Wednesday March, 17th | 5pm - 6pm via Zoom
(Registration details forthcoming.)

NEW YORK-BASED ARTIST TAMARA GONZALES TO CREATE LARGEST PAINTING TO DATE AS THE COMMISSIONED ARTIST FOR PCG'S ANNUAL *ON THE WALL* EXHIBITION.

On the Wall is PCG's annual commission of large-scale artworks applied directly to the walls of the Reilly Gallery. As part of an interdisciplinary initiative at the College to explore and develop new scholarship on the rich traditions of the mural format, Tamara Gonzales, an artist based in New York City, will transform the exhibition space with vibrant pattern, color and compositional allusions to towering figures engaged in a ball game.

Gonzales is known for incorporating into her artwork elements of visual culture that are traditionally associated with lived culture, such as lace, graffiti, embroidery, textiles and other decorative techniques. With inventive combinations of such elements, the artist's paintings, drawings and textiles collaborate to build up blocky figures filled with multi-colored fields of florals and *faux bois*. Created with a range of techniques, from spray painting through lengths of lace to block printing sections of canvas, the artist's oeuvre showcases a unique commitment to developing abstraction through prisms of multiculturalism.

On the Wall: Tamara Gonzales continues the artist's vision with an all-encompassing illustratively painted installation subtitled "Cosmic Recess." As the artist's largest painting project to date, the walls and even the floors are considered sites for engagement. Pairs of large, ornately patterned legs stretch down from the ceiling, running and kicking a ball in a game. A mischievous ball bounces from one wall to the next, while a long undulating snake runs the length of the gallery floor like a small river or a creek.

An encounter with "Comic Recess" sends the visitor's gaze up to towering figures and what lies beyond. Like many church and religious architectures designed with this very choreography in mind, this mural-work in PCG's cavernous Reilly gallery sends eyes and minds towards the heavens in worship and possibility. With this, Gonzales alludes to her long-term interest in spiritual gestures and a persistent mortal pondering of what exists after our earthly existence.

On the Wall: Tamara Gonzales is organized by Kate McNamara, PCG Curator at Large. The exhibition is sponsored by Providence College's Department of Art and Art History and Program for Latin American Studies. Additional support generously provided by Pete Peterson (PC'86) and Theresa Cairns Peterson (PC'89).

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Tamara Gonzales was born in Madera, CA and lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. Gonzales is a prominent participant in the community of artist-run spaces and artist-driven projects in New York City, and her work is held in public collections including the Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx, NY and the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA. She has been awarded residencies such as Center of Contemporary Art, Andratx, Mallorca, Spain (2012); International Artists Exchange Program, Basel, Switzerland (2008); Sanskriti Kendra, New Delhi, India (2001); Yaddo, Saratoga Springs, NY (1999); and Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT (1997).

Recent solo exhibitions include: *Bo Yancon* at Klaus von Nichtssagend, New York, NY (2019); *Ó Lua* at The Pit, Los Angeles, CA (2018); and *Campesino Bailando* at 39 Great Jones, New York, NY (2017). Recent two-person and group shows include: *Talking All Morning: Tamara Gonzales and Chris Martin* at The Pit, Los Angeles, CA (2021); *Mask* at Klaus von Nichtssagend, New York, NY (2020); *All of Them Witches* at Jeffrey Deitch Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (2020); *It's Necessary to Talk About Trees* at River Valley Arts Collective, Catskill, NY (2019); and *Out of Control* at Venus Over Manhattan, New York, NY (2018).

ABOUT PROVIDENCE COLLEGE GALLERIES

Providence College Galleries (PCG) presents exhibitions and public programs focusing on contemporary art, innovative artistic practice and interdisciplinary cultural activity. Operating within two gallery spaces and across Providence College's campus, PCG supports the educational, service and community-oriented mission of the College with dynamic visual arts productions, including those that foster audience participation, cross-departmental collaboration at the College, and cultural exchange at local, national and international levels. PCG ultimately strives to produce projects by artists and intellectuals who demonstrate how and why creative practitioners are vital forces in promoting diversity and shaping contemporary global culture.

For more information about PCG, visit pcgalleries.providence.edu.