



G R O U N D S F O R S C U L P T U R E

**In Partnership with The Color Network, Spring Exhibition at Grounds For Sculpture
Responds to the Duality of Clay, Expressing its Strength and Vulnerability**

Group Exhibition Spotlights 16 Ceramic Artists of Color

Hamilton, NJ – March 17, 2022 – This spring, **Grounds For Sculpture** will present a group exhibition of works by artists of color who meditate on social, environmental, and individual perceptions of fragility through the medium of clay. The exhibition is presented in partnership with **The Color Network**, which seeks to advance people of color in the ceramic arts through community-building, events, exhibitions, mentorship, and other resources. On view **May 22, 2022 – January 8, 2023**, *Fragile: Earth* will predominantly feature artists that identify as female and nearly half of the artists in the exhibition will be debuting new works.

Fragile: Earth is concurrent with a solo exhibition of **Roberto Lugo**, a master ceramicist who is best known for his multicultural mash-ups depicting leading Black cultural figures in porcelain and has frequently collaborated with The Color Network. Together these exhibitions support Grounds For Sculpture’s institutional mission, which uses key components of curatorial work, collections, and exhibitions as a catalyst for transformation across the organization, addressing issues of inclusivity, access, and equity.

“As a platform for contemporary art and artists, Grounds For Sculpture amplifies the diverse voices and visions of those working in the field today. This spring, our focused look at the underrepresented medium of ceramics shines a light on artists of color firing a new future in clay,” said Gary Schneider, Executive Director of Grounds For Sculpture. “The new partnership with The Color Network expands our commitment to fostering an open community of artists and brings their compelling works to the forefront of the contemporary conversation on sculpture.”

Organized by guest curator Angelik Vizcarrondo-Laboy, the 16 artists were selected through The Color Network, by curatorial invitation, and through an open call. United by their ceramics practice and inclusive of a myriad of social, cultural, economic, geographical, and ethnic backgrounds, the featured artists are **Natalia Arbelaez, Ashwini Bhat, Ebitenyefa Baralaye, Syd Carpenter, Adam Chau, Jennifer Ling Datchuk, Magdolene Dykstra, April Felipe, Raheleh Filsoofi, Salvador Jiménez-Flores, Anabel Juárez, Anina Major, Jane Margarete, Mariana Ramos Ortiz, Virgil Ortiz, and Sarah Petty.**

“When unfired, clay is soft, flexible, and forgiving; when fired, it is solid and strong but can easily shatter,” added exhibition curator Angelik Vizcarrondo-Laboy. “This exhibition explores vulnerability as strength, the faults of a strong façade, and the fragility of entities often taken for granted, such as nature and government, amid ongoing global health and social crises.”

The exhibition will be accompanied by a series of artist-led programs, including community workshops in ceramics, storytelling, and self-reflection as well as art sessions, ESL/Spanish offerings, and professional development for artists presented by both Grounds For Sculpture and The Color Network. The partners will also co-host a fall auction, **Fragile: Cup**, which will offer one-of-a-kind ceramic mugs created by contemporary artists for sale to support the mission of The Color Network.

Sponsor Information

Roberto Lugo: The Village Potter and Fragile: Earth: Lead sponsor Bank of America, supported in part by the Brooke Barrie Art Fund, Edna W. Andrade Fund of the Philadelphia Foundation, Holman, the New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel & Tourism, and NRG and the following Exhibition Supporters: Judith Burgis, Drs. Umesh and Sunanda Gaur, and Barbara Eberlein and Jerry Wind. Support is provided in part by the Atlantic Foundation, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

Member Preview Day

Grounds For Sculpture will hold a special preview day for its Members on Saturday, May 21, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The exhibitions *Roberto Lugo: The Village Potter* and *Fragile: Earth*, which will not open to the general public until the following day, will both be on view and programs include opportunities to meet the artists and curators. Member reservations are required.

Hours and Ticketing

Both *Roberto Lugo: The Village Potter* and *Fragile: Earth* will be on view to the public with general admission. Visitors should check the Grounds For Sculpture website for extended hours.

Advance timed ticket reservations are highly recommended to ensure entry. Reservations can be made online at groundsforsculpture.org. Capacity is limited and tickets often sell out on weekends and holidays. Member reservations are required on weekends (Saturdays and Sundays) and holidays. Tickets are available up to two weeks in advance and are released on a weekly basis.

About The Color Network

The Color Network's mission is to aid in the advancement of people of color in the ceramic arts. Their focus includes exhibitions, an online database, community events, and mentorship. Since 2018, The Color Network has created an international Mentorship program, curated exhibitions, held a residency at Watershed Ceramics, and provided opportunities through micro grants and an artists' listserv. Its active Instagram page (@thecolornetwork) highlights both established and rising stars in the ceramics field, as well as resources for the community. The Color Network also holds panels, resource tables, community events, and exhibitions during the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts conference, as well as periodic affinity rooms and safe rooms for specific communities.

About Angelik Vizcarrondo-Laboy

Angelik Vizcarrondo-Laboy is a Los Angeles-based independent curator, writer, and arts administrator of contemporary art and craft. Her current research focuses on the subversive power of humor, cuteness, and leisure as tools of protest. Amplifying the voices of BIPOC artists is central to her practice. She recently served as Assistant Curator at the Museum of Arts and Design (MAD), NY where, in addition to her work contributing to over 20 exhibitions, she oversaw MAD's Burke Prize, a prestigious contemporary craft award. Other recent projects include exhibitions *Belonging: 2022 NCECA Annual* (2022) at the Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA; *The Universe Within* (2022) at Mindy Solomon Gallery, Miami, FL; *Sleight of Hand* (2020) at the Center for Craft, NC, where she was a 2020 curatorial fellow; and *Clay is Just Thick Paint* (2020) at Greenwich House Pottery, NY. She has also contributed to *Cultured* and *American Craft* magazines and multiple exhibition catalogs, and is the creator and co-host of the podcast *Clay in Color*. She holds an MA from the Bard Graduate Center, NY, in Decorative Arts, Design History, & Material Culture.

About Grounds For Sculpture

Grounds For Sculpture is a 42-acre not-for-profit sculpture park, arboretum, and museum, founded by the late artist and philanthropist Seward Johnson. Featuring nearly 300 contemporary sculptures by renowned and emerging artists in a beckoning landscape, Grounds For Sculpture combines art and nature to surprise, inspire, and engage all visitors in the artist's act of invention. In addition to its permanent collection, Grounds For Sculpture offers rotating special exhibitions in its six indoor galleries, rich educational programs, and dynamic family events. Located in Hamilton, New Jersey, Grounds For Sculpture is easily accessible from both the New York City and Philadelphia metropolitan areas and is now open year-round. For more information, visit groundsforsculpture.org.

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