



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sculptor Nora Valdez to Show at Galatea Fine Art on Themes of Home/Hogar

Nora Valdez makes art about the experience of immigration and its flip side, home, or, in Spanish, *hogar*. Her work will be on view at Galatea Fine Art, a cooperative gallery in Boston's SoWa District, from October 31 through December 2, with a reception Friday, November 2, from 6 to 8pm. She will give a talk about her work, at the gallery, Sunday, November 4 at 3pm.

Valdez, a Boston-based, Argentine sculptor, has just completed an artist's residency at the Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts, where she worked with teen interns on an installation exploring the meaning of home, incorporating contributions from a series of community workshops.

The Galatea exhibition will include the installation along with other work by Valdez. She says:

"The theme of *home* is a current focus of my work. I am using symbols that take me home, images and objects related to me departing my place, leaving my loved ones behind. Carrying bags, suitcases, continuing my journey, representing all traveling using wheels, boats and ladders. Drifting away from home.... Carrying with me all that makes me close and far from home. The many pieces in my work can be read as a whole but each individual piece also has its own identity, just as any person's identity is a collection of all the pieces they are.

"I carved the pieces for this show going to an inner space to suggest looking at ourselves, to see who we are, to accept ourselves and carry our baggage not with weight, not with guilt, but with the pride of understanding and accepting who we are. Hearing our answer from deep within and following its direction will turn us slowly towards peace, a peace we may not understand but one that opens us to new meaning, Inviting us home, back to our true self."

At the Eliot School, Valdez worked with three interns from Teen Bridge, the Eliot School's arts program that combines skill building, mentorship, employment, exposure to artists and arts opportunities: Amaya Willis, Grace MacPherson and Isaac Madera-Cepeida. Together, they held workshops at Boston Public Library branches in Jamaica Plain and Roxbury. Community members of all ages contributed, through artmaking, their own ideas of home, exploring: What makes a place home? How do we create a feeling of home? How do we welcome others home?

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Images available upon request.

About Nora Valdez

Nora Valdez, born and raised in Argentina, has been living and working in the United States as an artist since 1986. She began exhibiting her work in 1977, and in 1982 graduated from the College of Fine Arts (*Mercedes San Luis, Argentina*) as Professor of Fine Arts. Her work has been exhibited internationally in Europe, Asia, North, Central and South America, including numerous international Sculpture Symposiums. Valdez has installed more than 15 permanent public art pieces around the world and the United States.

Valdez explores the idea of home and the immigrant experience through public art and monumental sculpture. Her thematic concerns are also reflected in her involvement with communities with which she has collaboratively created numerous projects.

The recipient of many awards, Valdez has appeared in numerous publications, including “Who’s Who in the World” since 2001, the art history book, “La Pintura y Escultura en SanLuis” (2007 Argentina), “International Sculpture Magazine” (2001 and 2006) for her work “The Journey” and “Stone Garden,” and “Carving out a Dream” (2008). Her work has received funding from public and private institutions including National Endowment for the Arts, New England Foundation for the Arts, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Georgia Arts Council and Vermont Arts Council. As an advisor and instructor at The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center, she has directed the Stone Bench Project, which has created and installed stone benches throughout Vermont. She has been a member of Boston Sculpture Gallery since 2012. Nora Valdez’s work is part of the permanent collection of The Fitchburg Art Museum, The Art Complex Museum and The Changchun World Sculpture Park and Museum (China). amount others.

About the Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts

The Eliot School inspires lifelong learning in craftsmanship and creativity for all. It sends artists and artisans to teach visual arts and woodworking to young people in schools and community centers throughout Boston, and offers classes for all ages in its two Jamaica Plain locations. Artisans’ talks, an annual artist’s residency, a multi-year teen program and family events round out its programs. For more information, visit eliotschool.org or follow @eliotschool on Twitter and Facebook.

About Galatea Fine Art

Galatea Fine Art is a contemporary cooperative art gallery located in the heart of Boston's SoWa neighborhood in the South End. Its members include painters, sculptors, photographers and mixed media artists with both established and emerging careers.

The artists’ cooperative was founded in 2009 by former Director, Marjorie Kaye, with the help of her partner, George Shaw. In the Fall of 2017 the gallery appointed new Director, Hilary Tait Norod. Galatea Fine Art's mission continues to mobilize the diverse energies and skills of our artists as well as to enrich our local art community and contribute to the contemporary arts discourse.

The Eliot School exhibits work twice a year at Galatea Fine Art, showcasing its Artists in Residence and its faculty.