

BALLROOM
MARFA

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BALLROOM MARFA PRESENTS

Tierra. Sangre. Oro.

August 25, 2017 – March 18, 2018

Opening Reception: Friday, August 25, 6-9pm

MARFA, TX – Ballroom Marfa is pleased to announce *Tierra. Sangre. Oro.*, an exhibition envisioned by artist Rafa Esparza. The program will include new installation, performance, and sculptural work from Esparza alongside collaborations and contributions from artists Carmen Argote, Nao Bustamante, Beatriz Cortez, Timo Fahler, Eamon Ore-Giron, and Star Montana.

Esparza's work manifests primarily through performance and sculpture, in a territory where the two mediums combine and hybridize. The artist uses adobe brick-building as a process-centered site for personal, cultural, ecological, and political investigation.

In residence in Marfa from June through August, Esparza will produce new work and conceive of a site-specific installation that is particular to the landscape and cultural context of the Big Bend region and northern Mexico, where adobe building is prevalent.

For this project Esparza will transform Ballroom's architecture using the adobe bricks that are central to his work. While making these interventions, the artist will explore, in his words, "the visibility of Brown people in Marfa." Esparza will work with his father, who taught the artist how to make adobe, as well as with people from his community and local adobe craftsmen to produce bricks and install the project.

Esparza's adobe architecture provides the ground for presentations by the artists he has invited to join him in Marfa as he "expands the idea of a Brown laboratory." New and existing work will be presented amidst structural additions to Ballroom's facade, galleries, and courtyard, creating spaces for the artist's "laboratories for dialoguing, thinking, working and making together with my peers."

Esparza addresses and excavates the history of colonialism; labor and economic value scales; queer culture and masculinity; as well as personal and familial legacy. He sets traditional materials, inherited processes, and ephemeral choreographies up against institutional structures and the historical narratives of Western sculpture, land art, and performance. The exhibition is a continuation of Ballroom Marfa's mission to commission internationally-relevant artworks and performances that respond to and engage with our community and environment.

Tierra. Sangre. Oro. is organized by Ballroom Marfa's curator and interim director, Laura Copelin

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For further information about the exhibition or to schedule interviews, please contact Ballroom Marfa at press@ballroommarfa.org or (432) 729-3600.

About Ballroom Marfa

Ballroom Marfa is a nonprofit cultural arts foundation based in Marfa, a remote town of 2,000 people in Far West Texas. Our contemporary art and performance space was established in 2003 in a ballroom that dates to 1927. Funded by donations from individuals and foundations, Ballroom Marfa produces ambitious exhibitions; commissions extraordinary works that are site-specific and site-inspired; enables profound cultural happenings and connections; and shares the landscape of the Big Bend with a diversity of artists and musicians.

Location, Hours, Admission

Ballroom Marfa is located at 108 E. San Antonio St. / Highway 90 West, and open Wednesday through Saturday, 10am-6pm, and Sunday, 10am-3pm. Admission is free, however, a \$5 donation is suggested to help fund Ballroom's programs.

The exhibition is made possible by the generous support of the Moody Foundation; Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; Brown Foundation, Inc., Houston; National Endowment for the Arts; Texas Commission on the Arts; Jeff Fort and Kristina Van Dyke; Adam and Melony Lewis; Ballroom Marfa Board of Trustees and Ballroom Marfa members.



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