

Tufts University Art Galleries

**Tufts University Art Galleries Explores Pivotal Activist Campaign
Artists Call Against US Intervention in Central America in Upcoming Exhibition**

**Exhibition to Feature Works by More than 100 Artists,
Including Original Campaign Participants and Contemporary Artists Influenced by the Effort**

On View January 20 – April 24, 2022

Boston and Medford, MA—November 9, 2021—On January 20, 2022, Tufts University Art Galleries (TUAG) will open the most in-depth exhibition to explore the seminal 1980s activist campaign *Artists Call Against US Intervention in Central America*. The campaign, which sought to educate North Americans and protest U.S. military interventions, included a vast array of political and artistic actions across nearly 30 cities that continue to reverberate in contemporary practice today. The forthcoming exhibition, titled *Art for the Future: Artists Call and Central American Solidarities*, provides an expansive examination of the campaign through the work of more than 100 artists and archival materials, including materials drawn from the personal archives of **Lucy Lippard** and **Doug Ashford** as well as from the **Museum of Modern Art Library & Archives**. *Art for the Future* will remain on view through April 24, 2022, and is accompanied by a fully illustrated, bilingual English-Spanish catalogue that features essays by artists and the exhibition curators as well as interviews with *Artists Call* organizers.

Artists Call was grounded in the political organizing of artists and activists such as Daniel Flores y Ascencio, Lucy Lippard, Doug Ashford, Leon Golub, and Coosje van Bruggen and grew through solidarity networks and community organizing. The conscious-raising effort resulted in exhibitions, performances, poetry readings, film screenings, concerts, and other cultural and educational events, with more than 1,000 artists participating in New York City and many more in cities across the U.S. and Canada. The exhibition *Art for the Future* offers a robust history of the campaign and captures its enduring influence on art and activism today, inviting audiences to consider the significance of the campaign within our current contexts. Major works by original campaign organizers and participants include those by artists **Josely Carvalho, Jimmie Durham, Louise Lawler, Ana Mendieta, Tim Rollins and KOS, Claes Oldenburg, Martha Rosler, Juan Sánchez, Nancy Spero, Zarina**, and many others.

Among the highlights of the exhibition is the reconstruction of **Hans Haacke**'s original installation *U.S. Isolation Box, Grenada, 1983*. The artwork recreates the boxlike isolation chambers that American troops used to detain prisoners at the Point Salines airport following the U.S. invasion of Grenada. Its presentation in *Art for the Future* marks its first exhibition since being destroyed in 1986. The exhibition also features the original version of *Reconstruction Codex* (1984) by **Sabra Moore** and 19 collaborators, including **Emma Amos, Camille Billops, Virginia Jaramillo, Nancy Spero, and Jaune Quick-To-See Smith**, among others. The work, which has not been on view since the 1980s, reconstructs one of the few surviving Mayan codices as a means of paying homage to the ancient Indigenous cultures of Latin America and drawing parallels between historic and contemporary political events in Central America.

The exhibition also includes works by contemporary artists inspired by *Artist Call* and the campaign's archival materials. Among the contemporary highlights is **Muriel Hasbun's** *Arte Voz*, for which visitors to TUAG will be invited to record their heartbeats on a digital stethoscope. The beats will be transmitted to a concurrent display at Centro Cultural de España, San Salvador, where the same opportunity to transmit beats will be available. The project creates a transnational archive of heartbeats between disparate communities, encouraging mutual learning, understanding, and embrace. Artist **Beatriz Cortez** has been commissioned by TUAG to create a life-sized time capsule that collapses different artistic and political trajectories to examine ideas of resilience, solidarity, and creative freedom. Artist **Naeem Mohaiemen**, who was also commissioned by TUAG, will create a film that focuses on *Artists Call* participant Judy Blum and her relationships with the effort as well as artists and collaborators Krishna Reddy and Zarina.

Art for the Future will be presented across TUAG's two campus locations in Boston and Medford, MA, with each presentation offering a cohesive and fully articulated examination of the campaign and its enduring impact. The exhibition is curated by Abigail Satinsky, Curator at TUAG, and Erina Duganne, Associate Professor of Art History at Texas State University, who spent five years researching, compiling materials, and engaging with artists to develop the presentation.

"Central American migrants continue to be denied political asylum from ongoing violence, repression, and instability in their home countries, which was caused in part by the interventionist policies of the Reagan administration in the 1980s. This makes returning to the solidarity efforts of *Artists Call*, in all their complexities and imperfections, matter more than ever," said Duganne.

"*Art for the Future* is an outgrowth of an ongoing series that I have been curating at TUAG that both explores the social and political work of historic artists and invites contemporary artists to reflect on and engage with current happenings and movements. The series captures the ways in which art plays a significant role in motivating engagement with critical issues of our time. Erina and I see *Artists Call* as an essential campaign within this broader conversation," said Satinsky. "The exhibition is an intergenerational conversation of artists' mobilizing their collective voice in protest, action, and commitment. We can learn from these efforts to build different futures."

Major support for the exhibition and catalogue was provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and the Institute for Studies on Latin American Art (ISLAA).

About the Catalogue

The fully illustrated, bilingual English-Spanish catalogue surveys *Artists Call's* mobilization of writers, artists, activists, and artist organizations and looks at the campaign's legacy today. Contributions include interviews with *Artists Call* organizers Daniel Flores y Ascencio, Jerry Kearns, Josely Carvalho, Fatima Bercht, Juan Sánchez, Kimiko Hahn, Sabra Moore, and Doug Ashford; critical essays by Lucy Lippard, Yansi Pérez, Kency Cornejo, Abigail Satinsky, Erina Duganne, and Josh Rios; and commissions of new artwork and writing by Muriel Hasbun, Josh MacPhee, Antonio Serna, Beatriz Cortez, and Naeem Mohaiemen. The catalogue places *Artists Call* within a wider visual, historical, and sociopolitical context and fills a gap in the examination of political and aesthetic actions across the Americas, both then and

now. The catalogue is published by Inventory Press & Tufts University Art Galleries, designed by [IN-FO.CO](#), and distributed by ARTBOOK/DAP.

About Tufts University Art Galleries

Tufts University Art Galleries (TUAG) is situated across two locations at Tufts University's main campus in Medford, MA, and within the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts (SMFA at Tufts) in downtown Boston. Its dual position within a research university and an art school informs its robust roster of exhibitions and public programs, offering its Tufts community and wider audiences a broad range of perspectives and opportunities to engage with artists, scholars, and innovators. Through research, collecting, and presentation, TUAG furthers the understanding of the critical role of artists and artistic movements within a spectrum of discourses, with a particular focus on today's pressing cultural and social issues. TUAG is committed to racial and cultural equity; you can learn more about our ongoing work [here](#).

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