

El Rincón Social

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

El Rincón Social

3210 Preston st.

Houston, TX 77003

El Chow: Fruto en vaina

March 24th, 2018

7pm-1am

El Rincón Social

3210 Preston St.

Houston, TX

El Chow presents a group exhibition featuring multidisciplinary and multimedia works from 20 Latinx Houston-based women and queer artists.

Jessica Alvarenga
Natalia Barrientos
Leticia Contreras
Gabriela Duarte
Chanell Escobar
Theresa Escobedo
Brenda Franco
Tere Garcia
Irene Antonia Diane Reece
Jessica González

Victoria Paige Gonzalez
Yeiry Guevara
Ángel Lartigue
Paty Lennon
Karen Y. Martinez
Arely Peña
Maureen Penders
Isaac Reyes
S Rodriguez
Edna Sandoval

(Houston, TX)-- February 5th, 2018. In its inaugural exhibition, *El Rincón Social* is pleased to present *El Chow: Fruto en vaina*, a group exhibition featuring multidisciplinary and multimedia works from 20 Houston-based artists that share an affinity for Latinx cultural traditions and examine their hybrid mentalities as women and queer people of color. *El Chow*, the second curatorial initiative spearheaded by curator Maureen Penders, runs from March 24, 2018 - April 6th, 2018, with an opening reception for the public on Saturday, March 24 from 7 PM to 1 AM. There will be artists talks Wednesday March 28th, 2018 and Wednesday April 4th, 2018. *El Chow: Fruto en vaina* is a participating exhibition in the 2018 FotoFest Biennial.

The presented artists/artworks investigate the complex nature of the emerging Latinx identity through themes of mysticism, immortality, transnational relations, communal healing, representation, visibility, among other topics. For some of the artists in particular, *El Chow* includes a study of gender and of belonging. These artist's work operate beyond the confines of the readily accepted social, cultural and gender norms.

El Chow: Fruto en vaina Exhibiting Artists:

Jessica Alvarenga

Natalia Barrientos

Leticia Contreras

Gabriela Duarte

Chanell Escobar

Theresa Escobedo

Brenda Franco

Tere Garcia

Irene Antonia Diane Reece

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Victoria Paige Gonzalez

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The title, *Fruto en vaina*, translates to “fruit from a pod.” Rooted in a shared and sweeping Latinx experience, the featured artists simultaneously demonstrate the significance and influence of a common cultural history and heritage as well as the intrinsic value of individuated experiences and the expression of personal perceptions/perspectives.

About the Curator

Maureen Penders is a Salvadoran artist and educator, living and working in Houston. She received her BFA in Photography and Digital Media from the University of Houston

Maureen is interested in conversations which touch upon a broad range of social aspects which are relevant to her life and experiences, predominantly the systemic, socio-economic inequality in El Salvador. She also works with themes regarding the LGBTQ community and the need for respect to be afforded to its members to ensure equal rights within all societies.

Media Resources

Facebook: www.facebook.com/El-RINCON-SOCIAL

Gallery hours by appointment

El Rincón Social

El Rincon Social, The Social Corner, is one of the most popular and exciting artist-run collectives in East End's warehouse district. It marks a new generation of alternative art spaces that specialize in supporting Houston's burgeoning artist scene. Their mission is to create culturally-rich art environments that nurture the exchange of ideas and experiences through

innovative workshops, exhibitions and events that showcase local artists and benefit their community.

FotoFest's Mission Statement

FotoFest International, a platform for art and ideas, presents the first and longest-running international Biennial of photography and new media art in the United States. A cultural, non-profit organization based in Houston, Texas, FotoFest organizes year-round exhibitions and a classroom-based learning program, Literacy Through Photography, that uses photography as a tool to strengthen student writing and learning skills. FotoFest's acclaimed Biennial and related programs are distinguished by their commitment to social issues and the presentation of important, new, contemporary artwork that is often not yet widely shown.