

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT // ARTS & CULTURE

Clamp Light unveils a body of work on the body in 'CuerposUnidos'

Deborah Martin | March 12, 2019 | Updated: March 12, 2019 5:35 p.m.



Images from a photo series by Ingrid Leyva are included in "CuerposUnidos," a new exhibit at Clamp Light Artist Studios and Gallery.

Photo: Ingrid Leyva / Ingrid Leyva

There's more to "CuerposUnidos," the new exhibit at Clamp Light Artist Studios and Gallery, than the 12 pieces on display right now.

The Contemporary Art Month show, which was curated by Jose Villalobos and Michael Anthony Garcia, is being presented in two halves. The first, titled “CuerposUnidos: Anterior,” is up now; the second, titled “CuerposUnidos: Posterior,” opens March 22. The show will then head to Austin, where it will be exhibited as a single unit at the Museum of Human Achievement.

“The original idea was, Michael and I wanted to bring a diverse group of artists into Clamp Light, and we talked about doing a two-part show because we could bring a lot more artists in that way,” said Villalobos, co-director of Clamp Light.

All together, the exhibit will spotlight the works of 14 local, regional, national and international artists, all of whom deal in some way with the human form. It does include some explicit content.

According to the curators’ statement, the exhibit was designed “as a means of speaking to varied representations and connotations of the human form, both aesthetic and political. While some works explore the corporeal form’s malleable power over the human gaze, others speak to the political cachet some bodies possess that others aren’t afforded.”

On ExpressNews.com: [Isaac Julien show is a preview of Ruby City](#)

Villalobos and Garcia, who also create their own work, had been talking about the possibility of curating a show together for a while. When Villalobos proposed that they come up with something for Contemporary Art Month, they began by each

making a list of artists whose work intrigued them.

“We met and we kind of shared the artists that interested both of us and we started developing this sense that a lot of the art we had been interested in had a lot to do with the human form and the body,” Villalobos said. “And we ourselves use our bodies as a medium at times.”

Most of the artists in “Anterior” are represented by two pieces. Roy Martinez has a dress and matching collar suggestive of a serape as well as a photograph of it being worn; Antonia Padilla is showing a black-and-white photograph; and Ric Nelson has a pair of beautifully crafted boxes that have to be viewed head-on for the work to be fully revealed.

The show also holds two giclee prints depicting lovers by Felix d'Eon and two collages by Sara Cardona.

On ExpressNews.com: City's public art manager showing at Lone Star Art Studio

Some of the artists have a single work in the show. Rosemary Meza-DesPlas's “In Spite of Ourselves” is a rectangular expanse of unprimed canvas with free-floating orbs suggestive of breasts that the artist stitched into the fabric with her own hair. And Alexander Hernandez' “Catfish” is a quilt-like piece depicting a pixilated human figure with a three-dimensional arm jutting from it.

There also is a video by Bug Davidson and a photograph by Antonia Padilla.

“I’m excited for people to see this work,” Villalobos said. “It’s not just artists from San Antonio, they’re from all over. And for the second installment, I’m also excited that it’s a little bit more performance-based.”

That half will include photographs by Ingrid Leyva, who also is featured in the CAM Perennial show at Blue Star Contemporary; a live performance piece during the run by Andie Flores; and a video projection of a performance by artist Dorian Wood.

After the exhibit closes, it will be reinstalled in Austin, extending the show’s reach. Giving the artists a chance to reach as broad an audience as possible is among the curators’ goals for the show.

“What I wanted was to create a space for artists of all colors, all different backgrounds, and, whether they’re LGBTQ or not, providing a space for them,” Villalobos said. “Sometimes, artists go unseen simply because some are not given the opportunity. This is a great opportunity to help these artists and provide a platform for them.”

At Artist Studios and Gallery, 1704 Blanco, “CuerposUnidos: Anterior” can be seen through March 19 and “Posterior” opens with a reception at 7 p.m. March 22. The exhibit moves to the Museum of Human Achievement in Austin in June. Info, clamplightsa.com.

dlmartin@express-news.net / Twitter: @DeborahMartinEN

Deborah Martin is an arts writer in the San Antonio and Bexar County area. Read her on our [free site, mySA.com](http://mySA.com), and on our