

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEBRUARY 11, 2025

PICA announces *ja' / buuts' / t'aan (Water / Smoke / Word)*, a multichannel video and sound installation by the artist Patricia Vázquez Gómez and a group of Mayan youth living in Northeast Portland, Oregon. This highly collaborative presentation investigates personal struggles to learn Indigenous languages that mirror enduring societal failures that threaten their survival.

Exhibition Dates: March 13, 2025 - May 31, 2025

Location: PICA, 15 NE Hancock Street, Portland, OR 97212

Price: Free

Website: pica.org/jabuutstaan

Press Contact: Leslie Vigeant, Director of Marketing and Communications: leslie@pica.org Jayne Pugh, Marketing Associate: jayne@pica.org

PICA

PORTLAND, OR – Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA) presents *ja' / buuts' / t'aan (Water / Smoke / Word)*, a multichannel video and sound installation emerging from a multidisciplinary and iterative project that encompasses public engagement, print, and media works. The presentation, conceived by Patricia Vázquez Gómez and made with a group of Mayan youth living in Northeast Portland, Oregon, explores the relationship between these young people with their mother tongue: *maayat'aan* (Maya Peninsular/Yucatec Mayan), an Indigenous language of present-day Yucatán, Mexico. Mostly shot in the Yucatán municipalities of Maní and Dzan with audio recorded in Portland, *ja' / buuts' / t'aan* investigates personal struggles to learn and preserve Indigenous languages that mirror enduring societal failures to support their survival. Water, smoke, and language act as framing devices to highlight historical and contemporary Indigeneity among the Mayan diaspora in the US.

This installation is immersive, featuring footage on several screens positioned throughout PICA's Annex accompanied by layered sound elements. *ja' / buuts' / t'aan* is intended to be viewed from beginning to end, and there will be several show times throughout the day during the run of the exhibition. Please visit pica.org for more information.

ja' / buuts' / t'aan is supported in part by the Ford Family Foundation, Verde, Oregon Humanities, Oregon Metro, Bodecker Foundation, and Multnomah County Cultural Coalition.

Patricia Vázquez Gómez is available for interviews. Please contact Leslie Vigeant, PICA's Director of Marketing and Communications, at leslie@pica.org for availability, press images, and other questions.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION / DATES / TIMES

Exhibition Title

ja' / buuts' / t'aan

Water / Smoke / Word

Artist: Patricia Vázquez Gómez

Voices: Shirley, Andrea, Areana, Evelyn, Brayden, Erik, Miley, Rosemary, and Yahani

Creative Complicity and Sound Design: Sam Hamilton

Community Engagement Support: Olga C K

Video Recording: Anthony Vasiliadis and Kannon Heaves

Production Assistance and Audio Recording: Kai Tillman

Studio Recording: Sina Youssefzadeh at Falcon Studios

Additional Sound Design: Fernando Vigueras

Translation and Language Advising: Felipe Castillo Tzec, Tony Canché Briseño, and Marcos Pech

Location

Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA)

15 NE Hancock Street, Portland, OR 97212

Exhibition Dates

March 13, 2025 - May 31, 2025

Opening Reception: Saturday, March 22, 12:00 – 4:00 PM

Gallery Hours

Thursdays 5:00 – 8:00 PM

Fridays 12:00 – 6:00 PM

Saturdays 12:00 – 4:00 PM

PICA

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Access

PICA is committed to accessibility as a value, ethic, and opportunity for learning, growth, and change. As we strive to create greater access to all of our programs and events, we welcome dialogue with audiences about their experiences and suggestions for improvement. To submit feedback, please contact us at boxoffice@pica.org or call (503) 224-PICA (7422).

This exhibition will take place in PICA's Annex. The audience will come in through PICA's back entrance, which is accessible to those with mobility aids but has a slight slope. Though the video and sound run continuously once begun, you may exit and re-enter the installation at any time. To submit a request for access services, please contact the Box Office at boxoffice@pica.org or (503) 224-PICA (7422). For ASL interpretation, audio description, and/or other forms of access that require advance scheduling, please submit a request at least two weeks in advance so that we can do our best to meet your needs.

COVID-19

Anyone experiencing or exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19—or who has been in contact with others who are—is asked to stay home to avoid the risk of exposing others. Masks are encouraged while indoors.

Transportation

PICA is located in the Boise-Eliot neighborhood of Northeast Portland, close to bus lines 4, 6, 17, and 44. Stops for the A Loop and B Loop Streetcar are approximately 0.3 miles from our building. The nearest MAX station is Rose Quarter Transit Center, which is approximately 0.5 miles away. On-street parking is available. Please be aware that PICA is in a residential area and, therefore, ask that all of our guests, staff, and audience members treat our neighborhood and neighbors, housed and unhoused, with the utmost respect.

About Portland Institute for Contemporary Art

Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA) acknowledges and advances new developments in contemporary art, fostering the explorations of artists and audiences. Since 1995, PICA has championed the practice of contemporary artists from around the world, driving vital conversations about the art and issues of today. PICA presents artists from visual and performance backgrounds and embraces those individuals who exist at the borders of genres and ideas. Through artist residencies, performances, public programs, exhibitions, lectures, workshops, and the Time-Based Art Festival, PICA constructs a broad platform for contemporary art.

More information can be found at pica.org.

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