

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 14, 2020

**Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA) is pleased to present
We Got Each Other's Back by Carlos Motta with Julio Salgado, Heldáy de la
Cruz, and Edna Vázquez. Opening November 7, 2020 and closing February 14, 2021.**

Dates: November 7, 2020 – February 14, 2021
Location: PICA, 15 NE Hancock Street, Portland, OR 97212
Website: pica.org
Press Contact: Leslie Vigeant, Director of Marketing and Communications
leslie@pica.org

Co-curated by Roya Amirsoleymani, PICA Artistic Director and Curator of Public Engagement, and Kristan Kennedy, PICA Artistic Director and Curator of Visual Art, *We Got Each Other's Back* is part of a long-term documentary project by interdisciplinary artist Carlos Motta. *We Got Each Other's Back* is a three-part, multi-channel video installation featuring portraits of queer artists and activists in the United States who are or have been openly undocumented, and who are producing work to denounce historic and present-day broken US immigration policies.

All three chapters of *We Got Each Other's Back* will be presented at Portland Institute for Contemporary Art from November 7, 2020 to February 14, 2021, including an international, interdisciplinary online symposium in the exhibition's closing weekend that will engage themes and questions central to the project.

Funded in part by the WHH Foundation, Sarah Miller Meigs, Jane Schiffhauer, Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF), and San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA).

**Spanish translation of press release also available.
Please email leslie@pica.org to request a translated copy.**

*******EVENT DETAILS AND FULL EXHIBITION STATEMENT TO FOLLOW*******

IMPORTANT INFORMATION / DATES / TIMES

Exhibition Title

We Got Each Other's Back

Artists

Carlos Motta with Julio Salgado, Heldáy de la Cruz, and Edna Vázquez

Location

PICA, 15 NE Hancock Street, Portland, Oregon 97212

Exhibition Dates

November 7, 2020 - February 14, 2021

Open Hours

Thursday & Friday, 12:00-6:00pm / Saturday & Sunday, 12:00-4:00pm

Free / Open to All / 25-Person Capacity / Masks Required

By Appointment Only: December 24, 2020 - January 3, 2021

Please email kevin@pica.org to request.

Virtual Symposium

February 13 & 14, 2021

Program and schedule to be announced January 2021.

The artists and curators are available for interviews. Please contact Leslie Vigeant / leslie@pica.org for availability, press images, and other questions.

The logo for PICA (Portland International Center for the Arts) features the word "PICA" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letters are positioned on a bright yellow rectangular background that extends to the left of the text.

*****FULL EXHIBITION STATEMENT TO FOLLOW*****

We Got Each Other's Back

Part of a long-term documentary project by interdisciplinary artist Carlos Motta, *We Got Each Other's Back* is a three-part, multi-channel video installation featuring portraits of queer artists and activists in the United States who are or have been openly undocumented, and who are producing work to denounce historic and present-day broken US immigration policies. The project demonstrates how intersections of sexuality, gender, ethnicity, race, and economic background define the environment of marginalization and discrimination to which immigrants are subjected, while challenging mainstream media narratives of immigration and sexuality by presenting nuanced, real-life stories of living at the margins of the legal system. *We Got Each Other's Back* also includes live and online events and public programs that engage the challenges faced by undocumented migrants.

The first chapter of *We Got Each Other's Back*, titled *Narrative Shifter: A Portrait of Julio Salgado*, is a collaboration with Los Angeles-based *artist* Julio Salgado, creator of the "Undocuqueer" project. *Narrative Shifter* was included in the exhibition *Soft Power* at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (October 2019 - March 2020), curated by Eungie Joo, in conjunction with a two-day conference in January 2020 at SFMoMA and the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC), organized by Rachel Nelson.

The second and third chapters of *We Got Each Other's Back*, titled *Heldáy de la Cruz: Desierto a desierto (Desert to Desert)* and *Edna Vázquez: Si se puede (Yes You Can)*, were produced in Portland, Oregon in summer 2020 in close collaboration with artist and activist Heldáy de la Cruz and singer/songwriter Edna Vázquez.

All three chapters of *We Got Each Other's Back* will be presented at Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA) in Portland, Oregon from November 7, 2020 to February 14, 2021, including an international, interdisciplinary online symposium in the exhibition's closing weekend that will engage themes and questions central to the project.

We Got Each Other's Back is co-curated by Roya Amirsoleymani, PICA Artistic Director and Curator of Public Engagement, and Kristan Kennedy, PICA Artistic Director and Curator of Visual Art.

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