

## **C.O.L.A. 2014: City of Los Angeles Individual Artist Fellowships Exhibition**

*Mon, Apr 28, 2014*

Awarded annually by DCA, the C.O.L.A. Fellowships support the creation of new works by a selection of the City's most exemplary mid-career artists. Opens May 4 at Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery at Barnsdall Park (LAMAG).

The C.O.L.A. exhibition honors Los Angeles' creative visionaries and nurtures the symbiotic relationship between L.A., its artists, its history, and its identity as an international arts capital. Chosen by a team of experts, the 2014.

C.O.L.A. award recipients in the visual arts include Stephen Berens, Kristin Calabrese, Jennifer Celio, Elena Manferdini, Jessica Rath, Ross Rudel, Hector Silva, Corey Stein, Linda Vallejo, and brothers Kent & Kevin Young. The 2014 C.O.L.A. award recipients in literature are Jen Hofer and Gabriel Spera. Each artist will present new work created specifically for C.O.L.A. with a \$10,000 grant from DCA.



This year's C.O.L.A. exhibition, curated by Scott Canty, LAMAG Director, presents a distinctive pairing of the visual arts and literature. From poets to photographers, this year's C.O.L.A. fellows represent a diverse cross-section of well-known and accomplished visual and literary artists, whose works have made a mark on the Los Angeles arts scene.

### **Visual Arts**

Stephen Berens is a photographer whose panoramic compositions are held in New York's Museum of Modern Art and Los Angeles' Getty Research Institute. Evoking the swift and ever-changing viewpoint of a passenger riding on a train, Beren's work captures "passages of motion in time" in fleeting moments and chance configurations that reflect the "mechanical mediations" between the photographer and his camera.

Kristin Calabrese is a Los Angeles-based painter, specializing in hyperrealist oil painting. In her recent paintings she probes the world of voids, black holes, secrets, and blindness, creating realistic illusions that test the viewer's notions of transparency. Calabrese's works have exhibited at the Brennan & Griffin Gallery in New York, Leo Koenig, Inc., and the Michael Janssen gallery in Cologne, Germany.

Jennifer Celio is a visual artist (image above) inspired by the frequent and “inelegant encounters” between the natural and built environments in the city of Los Angeles. Celio captures this “uneasy coexistence” in intricate and immersive pencil drawings of local landscapes that thoughtfully consider the impact of humans on nature, as well as the environment’s influence on human lives.

Elena Manferdini is an architect and founder of design firm Atelier Manferdini in Venice, CA. Holding a masters in Architecture and Urban Design from UCLA, Manferdini has been recognized internationally for her imaginative and multi-disciplinary art, architecture, and product design. Her award-winning designs and installations have been featured at Los Angeles’ Museum of Contemporary Art, The Museum of Art in Birmingham, UK, as well as architecture biennales in Korea, China, and her homeland, Italy.

Jessica Rath is a multimedia artist who explores the role of beauty and attraction in agriculture by finding inspiration in the “things that are close to home.” Depicting the unexpected beauty of fading trees, ripened fruit, and napping children, her solo exhibitions at the Torrance Art Museum, Pasadena Museum of Art, and Otis College of Art and Design suggest an idyllic harmony between home and garden that also questions human actions as they relate to nature.

Ross Rudel creates visceral sculptures that evoke intense psychological drama. Rudel draws out the character of a form, effortlessly revealing hidden patterns and forms. His works have been featured at Otis College of Art and Design and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.

Hector Silva has played an influential role in the Queer Latino visual arena, exhibiting his work in a range of venues from galleries to swap meets. Influenced by Los Angeles’ Latino street culture and queer nightlife, Hector’s depiction of an eroticized “homeboy aesthetic”— bald heads, Dodger caps, oversized white T-shirts and Nike Cortez sneakers— signals a “Los Angeles style vector” that remaps the city’s LGBTQ cultural scene in a daring visual register.

Corey Stein is a visual artist based in Sunland, CA. From her on-site studio, she combines “droll and eccentric whimsy with serious subjects” to create works that provoke “thoughtful and amused attention.” Drawn to word play and comedy, Stein explores the problems of an individual artist and woman through the expressive power of humor.

Linda Vallejo’s artwork is deeply influenced by her multicultural outlook as a Mexican American artist raised in Los Angeles and internationally. Featured in several books on the Chicano art movement in Los Angeles, Vallejo’s paintings, installations, sculptures, and collages continue to comment on Latino identity in the United States.

Kent & Kevin Young are multimedia, performance artists whose work is deeply influenced by their relationship as twins and creative collaborators. Together, the brothers have created multifaceted exhibitions in Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco that interrogate the phenomenological quality of the “twin dichotomy,” while highlighting the tension between the real and the represented.

### **Literary Arts**

Jen Hofer is a poet, literary activist, faculty member at CalArts and Otis College of Art and Design, and an award-winning translator of famed Mexican writers Dolores Dorantes, Myriam Moscona, Laura Solórzano, and Cristina Rivera Garza, (forthcoming.) Currently experimenting with silent film narratives and the spoken word, Hofer’s fascination with the complications of translation is a new chapter in her expansive body of published works.

Gabriel Spera is a nature poet drawn to exploring the “emotional arrhythmia of life” in verses marked by meticulous rhyme schemes and wayward depictions of life’s pitfalls. Spera has published two books of poetry, *The Rigid Body* and *The Standing Wave*, as well as performed his poetry at festivals throughout California and the United States.