

cincinnati art museum

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media@cincyart.org

953 Eden Park Drive | Cincinnati, Ohio | 45202

www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org

***Images Available Upon Request**

Roberto Lugo to embark on artist residency at Cincinnati Art Museum March 17– 24

*Exhibition on view from
March 17 – September 24, 2023*

CINCINNATI — February 6, 2023 — The Cincinnati Art Museum will present artist, educator and poet Roberto Lugo during a seven-month solo exhibition *Roberto Lugo: Hi Def Archives* March 17–September 24, 2023.

Lugo will be in residence at the Cincinnati Art Museum from March 17–24 during which he will create contemporary pottery in conjunction with his finished works. The exhibition will present selections chosen by the artist from the museum’s collection as he examines intersections of community, place and identity in his practice and in Cincinnati’s Rookwood Pottery’s legacy.

Lugo (Puerto Rican-American, b. 1981) draws from his lived experience and deep knowledge of ceramic history to create works that elevate the stories and communities who have been overlooked in the historical record of art making. Lugo’s multicultural mashups often combine classic forms and patterns with elements of hip-hop.

“As a potter,” Lugo explains, “I aim to carry on the ceramic tradition in a manner that honors the culture and community I come from.”

Lugo was raised in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia, an area marked by community vitality yet lack of opportunity to achieve upward economic mobility or access to artistic outlets. At the age of 25, he enrolled in his first pottery class. Today, he leads the ceramic department at Temple University in Philadelphia, and his art resides in the collections of the most prestigious art institutions in the country, including the Cincinnati Art Museum. When he is not teaching or creating, Lugo returns to neighborhoods with a potter’s wheel emblazoned with the words, “This machine kills hate.” Taking his art to the street, he uses clay and his wheel to teach others how to throw pots, break down cultural and social biases and encourage the possibility that anyone can choose and achieve their dreams.

“We are thrilled to welcome artist Roberto Lugo to Cincinnati,” states exhibition curator Amy Miller Dehan. “In his highly skilled practice and with his vibrant works of art, Lugo aspires to create universal access to the arts; to document and include those who have traditionally been excluded; and to bring hope, purpose and a sense of belonging to all—goals that guide the museum’s own mission to inspire people and connect Cincinnati communities.”

The exhibition is presented by FEG and sponsored by Capital One with additional support provided by GBBN and LPK. The exhibition will be on view in the Sara M. and Michelle Vance Waddell Gallery and the Manuel and Rhoda Mayerson Gallery (Galleries 124 and 125) across from the Terrace Café. No tickets are required. General admission to the museum is also free. Photography is encouraged, but no flash. On social media, use the hashtag #RobertoLugo.

Exhibition overview:

Roberto Lugo: Hi-Def Archives features recent works by Lugo and, for a limited time, the artist himself. Beginning March 17, Lugo will work in residency at the museum, creating ceramics in a gallery adjacent to the display of his finished works. Lugo intends the exhibition “to be both homage to the village that raised me up and the legacy of Rookwood Pottery.” Showing his work in conversation with selections from the museum’s Rookwood collection,

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Lugo examines intersections of community, place and identity, celebrating the rich craft history of Cincinnati while simultaneously recontextualizing the impact of ceramics as contemporary cultural objects that honor all of us.

The exhibition will feature prominently as part of the National Council on Education for the Arts (NCECA) conference in Cincinnati between March 15–18, 2023.

Upcoming, related events:

[The 26th Annual Kreines Lecture on Decorative Arts and Design: Roberto Lugo](#): 3-4 p.m., Sunday, March 12, Fath Auditorium (Cincinnati Art Museum)

Join us in welcoming Lugo to Cincinnati and hear him speak about his work and his residency and solo exhibition. Reception with light bites to follow. The annual Kreines lecture is presented by Mrs. Kenneth Kreines and the Decorative Arts Society of Cincinnati in memory of Dr. Kenneth Kreines. Free. Reservations are required and are available via the [calendar listing](#).

Roberto Lugo at the Cincinnati Art Museum, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. daily, March 17–24, Gallery 125 Lugo will work in residency at the museum, creating ceramics in a gallery adjacent to the display of his finished works. (Schedule subject to change.)

[Members Opening and NCECA Open House](#), 5–9 p.m., Thursday, March 16, Cincinnati Art Museum members and National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) conference attendees are invited to see Lugo creating work in the galleries and enjoy light bites and a cash bar in the Fountain Room (Gallery 126). Free for museum members and NCECA guests. Reservations are not required.

[Art After Dark](#), 5–9 p.m., Friday, March 24, Cincinnati Art Museum

This month's event will celebrate the exhibition and feature Lugo, live music, food and drink for purchase. Art After Dark is free to attend. All ages welcome. Reservations are not required.

[CAM Kids Day: Hip Hop Hooray!](#), 11 a.m.–3 p.m., Saturday, April 1, Cincinnati Art Museum

Celebrate the exhibition with a day filled with fun and energy for the whole family. Enjoy scavenger hunts, preschool and docent-led activities, family-friendly performances and art-making activities throughout the day. Free. Reservations are not required.

About the Cincinnati Art Museum

The Cincinnati Art Museum is supported by the generosity of individuals and businesses that give annually to ArtsWave. The Ohio Arts Council helps fund the Cincinnati Art Museum with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The Cincinnati Art Museum gratefully acknowledges operating support from the City of Cincinnati, as well as our members.

Free general admission to the Cincinnati Art Museum is made possible by a gift from the Rosenthal Family Foundation. Special exhibition pricing may vary. Parking at the Cincinnati Art Museum is free.

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