



## Ana Serrano: Homegrown

January 21–June 3, 2018

**Mexican-American artist Ana Serrano’s urban “garden” installation reveals human interaction with urban and rural landscapes**



Ana Serrano, *Jardinsito* [detail], 2013. Cardboard, paper, acrylic paint, 12 x 7 x 7 inches, Photo © 2013 Julie Klima

**Pasadena, CA** — *Ana Serrano: Homegrown* is an immersive “garden,” on view in the Pasadena Museum of California Art Project Room from January 21–June 3, 2018. Referencing a recognizable urban landscape and paying homage to artist Ana Serrano’s family connection to the land, the installation highlights the juxtaposition of the built environment and plant life.

Composed of bright-colored walls and lively plants made of cardboard and paper, the dynamic space is akin to a secret garden created for viewers to have intimate, individual moments. Heavy “brick” walls, which almost completely encase the garden, contrast with the fragile array of greenery—including rose bushes, tomatoes, nopales, and other flora that has a strong connection to the Serrano family’s past and present. Though the four brick barriers may seem intimidating, the entryway in one of the walls invites viewers to move into the sculpture and immerse themselves in the disparate yet familiar elements of city living. The work highlights the balance between man-made constructions and natural elements as well as dense, permanent objects and those that are lighter, more ephemeral.

## PASADENA MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA ART

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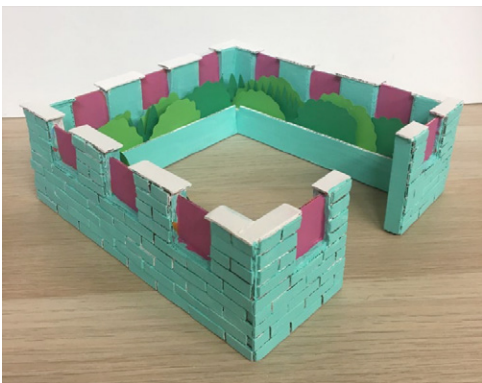
In Serrano's installation, plants poke up through the "concrete structure" as they would through cracks in city sidewalks or streets. The plants reference the small plots of dirt found scattered amidst the concrete of Los Angeles, particularly in the Mexican and Mexican-American neighborhoods of Los Angeles where Serrano was raised. With a particular focus on the ways people create gardens and grow food within small spaces, the installation mirrors the garden-within-the-yard of single-family homes, and recalls the urban environments that provide the soil for family traditions to take root. It focuses on how people bring the natural world into the city environment.

The installation connects the artist—who is a first-generation Mexican-American—to her family's rural lifestyle in Sinaloa, Mexico. Since migrating to Los Angeles, Serrano's family has, in a single generation, transitioned to a more urban economy, no longer sustaining themselves on the food solely grown on family land. The artist's tedious act of sculpting the natural urban landscape from cardboard and paper is a conceptual gesture that mirrors and honors her family's heritage of working the land in Mexico. The installation provides the contemplative space that enables the artist, and thus the viewer, to reflect on family traditions and ties to home, to which all can relate.

"The visual landscape of California has drastically informed my work," says Serrano. "As a Los Angeles native, the softness and harshness of this city has allowed me to see the full spectrum of who I can be and who I want to be. My family's emigration to California may have complicated my lived experiences because I've had to navigate two cultural contexts, but it also started an enriching new chapter in our family history. Furthermore, California's proximity to Mexico enables me to remain connected to the land where I have so many roots."

The exhibition will feature an engaging art making space, where all visitors are invited to recall a personal garden, landscape or urban space to which they have roots. A Garden Shed will offer an array of art making supplies and materials, where visitors can create their own plant or flower. Visitors can find inspiration in Ana's garden or choose to create a plant that has personal relevance. Visitors are encouraged to add their piece to the Community Garden, designed by Serrano, or choose to take their creation home.

A Los Angeles native, Serrano (b.1983) is inspired by both the Mexican and American cultural contexts in her life. Her art interprets how Latinxs engage with and alter built environments. She creates work utilizing a variety of mediums including drawing, collage, and sculpture. Her work references those in low socioeconomic positions, with particular interest in the customs and beliefs, as well as the architecture, fashion, and informal economies present within these communities. Serrano is a graduate of Art Center College of Design in Pasadena and currently resides in Portland, Oregon. Her work has been exhibited at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, CA; Craft & Folk Art Museum, Los Angeles, CA; Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach, CA; Rice University Art Gallery, Houston, TX; and the Mexican Cultural Institute, Washington, D.C.



On view in the PMCA Project Room, *Ana Serrano: Homegrown* is organized by the Pasadena Museum of California Art. The exhibition is supported by the PMCA Board of Directors and PMCA Ambassador Circle.

Ana Serrano, Study for *Ana Serrano: Homegrown*, 2017. Courtesy of the artist.

## **Related Programs**

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are free with admission and reservations are not required.

### **Opening Day**

**Sunday, January 21 | 12:00-5:00pm**

Join us as we unveil our three new exhibitions to the general public: *Testament of the Spirit: Paintings by Eduardo Carrillo*, *The Feminine Sublime*, and *Ana Serrano: Homegrown*.

### **PMCA 1234: Free Fourth Wednesday Wee Read**

**Wednesday, January 24 | 10:30-11:30am**

#### ***What California Art Means To Me***

After a kid-friendly tour of *Ana Serrano: Homegrown*, PMCA educators read children's stories that connect art and learning. Get creative during art activities that integrate themes of selected books, the basic elements of art, and Serrano's urban garden.

**Wee Read:** *City Green* by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan and *Planting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert

*Recommended for children ages 2-5. Caregivers must accompany children.*

*Museum opens early for Wee Read participants only.*

### **Children's Workshop: Home Grown with Ana Serrano!**

**Saturday, March 24 | 2:00-4:00pm**

Take inspiration from *Ana Serrano: Homegrown* in the Project Room. Learn how to make your own paper flowers and cardboard potted plants from the artist herself!

### **Family Day & Slow Art Day**

**Saturday, April 14 | 12:00-5:00pm**

Participate in creative projects and gallery tours for the whole family based on our current exhibitions, *Testament of the Spirit: Paintings by Eduardo Carrillo*, *The Feminine Sublime*, and *Ana Serrano: Homegrown*. Art activities in the Project Room, the PMCA lobby, and the Kenny Scharf *Kosmic Krylon Garage* include silkscreen printing and pottery painting. Contribute to a community chalk mural and make your own sun catcher with real flowers and leaves.

**Join in for International Slow Art Day!** At 1:00pm and 3:00pm, join us for tours of artwork on view in the galleries. Look at five works of art for ten minutes each, and then regroup to reflect on experiences through group discussion, writing exercises, or interpretation through imitation.

*Drop-ins and all ages welcome! Caregivers must accompany children.*

Free for PMCA members and with admission. Children 12 and under are always free!

### **Adult Workshop: Bookmaking and Collage**

**Saturday, April 24 | 2:00-4:00pm**

Inspired by the magical realism of *Testament of the Spirit: Paintings by Eduardo Carrillo*, the provocative transcendence of *The Feminine Sublime*, and the vibrant assemblage of *Ana Serrano: Homegrown*, create your own 3-hole stitch book. Experiment with collage, illustration, and poetic fragments of language to fill the book with the surreality of your own dreamscape, landscape, or garden.

*Space is limited to 15 people. Appropriate for ages 15 and up.*

*\$30; \$20 for PMCA members. Register at [bit.ly/pmcaworkshops](http://bit.ly/pmcaworkshops).*

## **PMCA 1234: Free Third Thursday**

**Thursday, May 17 | 5:00-9:00pm**

Enjoy free admission, extended hours, and a free program:

### **Building Homes, Transcending Borders - 6:00-7:00pm**

Listen to the groundbreaking work of some of Southern California's most talented Mexican-American poets and writers, presented in partnership with Red Hen Press. Afterwards, continue the dialogue on what it means to build a home and peruse the authors' titles during a reception in the PMCA lobby, courtesy of Lagunitas Brewing Company.

## **Museum Information**

### **MISSION**

The mission of the Pasadena Museum of California Art (PMCA) is to present the breadth of California art and design through exhibitions that explore the cultural dynamics and influences that are unique to California.

### **HOURS**

Open Wednesday-Sunday, 12:00-5:00pm; third Thursday of each month, 12:00-8:00pm; closed Monday, Tuesday, July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

### **ADMISSION**

\$7 for adults; \$5 for seniors (62+); \$5 for students & educators; free for PMCA members & children (12 & under); free the first Friday of each month (12:00-5:00pm); free the third Thursday of each month (5:00-8:00pm). Access for people with disabilities is provided.

### **PLAN YOUR VISIT**

The Museum is located at 490 East Union Street. From the 210 Freeway, take the Lake Avenue exit. Go south and take a right on Union Street. From the 110 Freeway/Downtown Los Angeles, follow the freeway until its end, then take Arroyo Parkway and turn right at Colorado, then left at Oakland to get to Union Street. Free parking is available in the street-level garage at the Museum.

### **DOCENT TOURS AND GROUP RATES**

The Museum offers docent tours on the second Saturday of each month (2:00pm; free with admission). Docent tours are also available Wednesday-Friday, 12:00-5:00pm, to private groups for a fee of \$75. A non-refundable deposit of \$40 is due two weeks prior to the scheduled date. Self-guided tours for K-12 students are offered for free. We regret that we are unable to accommodate docent tours for groups larger than 35 people. Before requesting a tour, please check the exhibition calendar to see which exhibitions will be available during your visit.

A discounted group rate of \$3 per person is available for groups of 20 or more (K-12 student groups are free). Please call to notify us at least one week in advance for these special admission rates. For any questions or to make reservations for a tour or group rate, call our Education & Engagement Coordinator, Leah Clancy, at 626.568.3665 x13 or email [lclancy@pmcaonline.org](mailto:lclancy@pmcaonline.org).

For more information, please call 626.568.3665 or visit [pmcaonline.org](http://pmcaonline.org).