



COLORADO SPRINGS

Fine Arts Center

at COLORADO COLLEGE

COLORADOCOLLEGE.EDU/FAC

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In “Raízes/Roots,” four Brazilian artists complicate the connections between earth, spirit, body, and the impacts of colonialism and globalization in contemporary Brazilian society.

Colorado Springs (July 24, 2017) – The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) is excited to announce “Raízes/Roots,” an exhibition showcasing Brazilian artists’ contemporary approaches to illustrating social issues, on display Aug. 19 through Nov. 15, 2017. This exhibition features contemporary artists – Ana Carolina Fernandes, Annie Gonzaga, Elisa Reimer, and Henrique Oliveira – with a reception and performance of Brazilian music at the FAC on Friday, Sept. 1, from 5 – 7:30 p.m.

“Raízes/Roots: Transformations in Brazilian Art” showcases four dynamic artists whose work addresses questions surrounding Brazilian national identity in the 21st century – including race, gender identity, sexuality, and the lingering consequences of colonialism.

Curated by Naomi Wood, professor of Spanish and Portuguese at Colorado College, with assistance from Mitra Ghaffari, a 2017 graduate of Colorado College, this exhibition seeks to complicate Brazil’s typical associations with soccer, samba, and carnival, and instead explore the fluidity, elasticity, and expansiveness of a highly diverse land and people.

“Raízes/Roots” Artists:

Ana Carolina Fernandes (Rio de Janeiro) is a distinguished photojournalist who uses the camera as a tool for protest and activism, often representing political resistance and marginalized identities in powerfully energized images. Her “Bodies and Souls” series is the result of over two years documenting a trans community in Lapa, Rio de Janeiro.

Annie Gonzaga (Salvador) identifies as lesbian, black, a mother, and practitioner of the Afro-Brazilian religion Candomblé. Through vibrant watercolors, installations, and graffiti, she creates a dialogue between spirituality, ancestry, body, and sexuality. She considers her work to be “artivism” (art activism), resisting and challenging hegemonic representation of social issues. Gonzaga will demonstrate her graffiti art at JAM FAC on Saturday, Sept. 2.

Elisa Riemer (Maringá) is a mixed media artist who collages graphics into a complexity of sensation, transformation, and affirmation. Her work has been featured on covers of internationally acclaimed novels by Anne Larue and Emily Nagosky.

Henrique Oliveira (São Paulo) is a painter and sculptor primarily known for his large-scale installation pieces and sculptures crafted from recycled wood. Showcasing another side of the dynamic artist, this exhibit will highlight his acrylic paintings, notable for an unrestrained fluidity and abstraction of color and movement.

First Friday Reception, Sept. 1, 5 – 7:30 p.m.

This event combines a reception for photographer Emma Powell, Colorado College assistant professor of art, and a celebration of the exhibition “Raízes/Roots: Transformations in Contemporary Brazilian Art,” featuring Brazilian music in Deco Lounge, a tour

of “Raízes/Roots,” and a performance by acclaimed Brazilian musician and singer, Michelle Castro.

Event details:

- 5 – 6:30 p.m. – View photographs by Emma Powell in Deco Lounge and the FAC Shop and music by Michelle Castro Quartet in Deco Lounge (5 – 5:45 p.m.)
- 5:45 – 6 p.m. – “Lightning Tour” of “Raízes/Roots: Transformations in Contemporary Brazilian Art” led by Naomi Wood, exhibition curator, and featured artist Annie Gonzaga
- 6:15 – 7 p.m. – Performance by Michelle Castro Quartet in the FAC courtyard. Originally from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Michelle Castro began studying music at 12 years old. As a vocalist and guitarist, she began to play internationally when invited to perform two tours of Germany with a choro/samba band as lead singer. She is proud to say she grew up in the Rocinha *favela* where she draws much of her musical inspiration and her passion for social activism.

“Raízes/Roots: Transformations in Contemporary Brazilian Art”

When: Aug. 19 – Nov. 15, 2017 | Daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Fridays and Theatre Nights 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where: Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College; 30 W. Dale St.

Admission: \$12; free for FAC members and kids 12 & under

Something else: First Friday Sept. 1 from 5 – 7:30 p.m. – view photographs by Emma Powell, music by Michelle Castro Quartet, and tour special exhibition “Raízes/Roots” with curator Naomi Wood.

Even more: JAM FAC Sept. 2 – live graffiti demos by Annie Gonzaga, food trucks, music, and more!

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College

The story of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) begins with the founding of the Broadmoor Art Academy by Julie and Spencer Penrose in 1919. During the Great Depression, three dedicated philanthropists – Julie Penrose, Alice Bemis Taylor, and Elizabeth Sage Hare – envisioned expanding the Broadmoor Art Academy into an entire arts district under one roof. The FAC changed its name, built a grand building, and opened as the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center in 1936. In August 2016, the FAC announced an historic alliance with Colorado College and on July 1, 2017, became the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College. The FAC is deeply rooted in the legacy of its founders, who possessed bold visions, a deep passion for the arts, and dedication to the Colorado Springs community. The FAC honors this legacy and spirit today by providing innovative, educational, and multidisciplinary arts experiences designed to elevate the individual spirit and inspire community vitality, building on its history as a unique cultural pillar of the Pikes Peak region. For more information, visit www.coloradocollege.edu/fac

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