



Campus Today ▼

Downtown Today ▼

IMAGINING AN ARCHIPELAGO: ART FROM CUBA, GUAM, THE PHILIPPINES, PUERTO RICO, AND THEIR DIASPORAS

Featuring approximately fifty contemporary and vibrant artworks connecting the histories of Cuba, Guam, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and their diasporas.

Location

Campus

Space

Upper and Lower Jetté Galleries

Dates

July 11, 2026–June 06, 2027

Connecting generations across oceans, *Imagining an Archipelago: Art from Cuba, Guam, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Their Diasporas* presents approximately fifty contemporary artworks by more than forty artists. The physically and visually immersive presentation brings together paintings, sculptures, videos, prints, photographs, and multimedia installations—including several newly commissioned, site-specific works—that explore artists' relationships to the histories and communities of their lands and seas. Uniting the works are themes of cultural and political self-determination, indigeneity and migration, and climate crisis and resilience.

The exhibition is organized geographically, showcasing each island's uniqueness, and thematically—Land,

Sea and Sky; Religion and Spirituality; Food; and Military Occupations—offering visitors multiple ways to engage with ideas of history, culture, and identity. At its heart, *Imagining an Archipelago* provides a platform for solidarity and connection among artists and island communities, both at home and in diaspora, in poignant, healing, and joyful ways.

Through painting, photography, installation, sculpture, weaving, assemblage, and film, the artists convey the layered realities of life shaped by US expansion. Together, the artworks form a vivid archipelago of stories that underscore the enduring impact of these histories on contemporary American life and invite visitors to reconsider how we carry the past—and what it means to be American.

The exhibition's historical focus begins in the late nineteenth century, a period when movements toward independence gained momentum across Cuba, the Philippines, and Puerto Rico and the 1898 Treaty of Paris shifted control from Spain to the United States.



María Magdalena Campos-Pons, *Freedom Trap*, 2013. Polaroid Polacolor Pro. 24 × 20 in. (61.0 × 50.8 cm). Museum purchase from the Jere Abbott Acquisitions Fund, 2024.044



Mariana Ramos Ortiz, *Cartografías alternas (Los Pozos) / Alternate Cartographies (Los Pozos)*, 2025. UV-cured pigment on compressed sand. 10 × 10 × 1 in. (25.4 × 25.4 × 2.5 cm). Courtesy of the artist

Imagining an Archipelago is the first major exhibition to use contemporary art to examine the impact of extending Manifest Destiny beyond North America, challenging the perception of the US as a purely continental nation and centering islands that were—and, in the cases of Puerto Rico and Guam, still are—under US control. The exhibition opens a window into living history, offering a new and vital lens through which to see connections between the past and a present moment marked by global and domestic events that test the viability of democracy.

The exhibition's premise guides the forging of creative connections across islands in different oceans, separated by thousands of miles. The metaphor of the archipelago—a chain of islands—emphasizes the artists' different yet interconnected strategies of critique, defiance, and navigation in response to circumstances shaped by empire. Juxtapositions suggest nuanced affinities and contrasts, underscoring a diversity of perspectives within complex networks. Rather than presenting a singular response to a monolithic interpretation of imperial legacies, *Imagining an Archipelago* visualizes solidarity strengthened by difference.

Imagining an Archipelago: Art from Cuba, Guam, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Their Diasporas is curated by Jessamine Batario, Linde Family Foundation Curator of Academic Engagement.

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue published in association with DeMonico Books. Contributors include Jessamine Batario, Lian Ladia, Alexandra Méndez, Craig Santos Perez, Stephanie Syjuco, Jacqueline Terrassa, Marina Tyquiengco with Fran Nededog Lujan, Adriana Zavala, and Phoebe Zipper. Also featured is a timeline by Jan Padios and a transcript of an artist discussion translated into Spanish, Filipino, and CHamoru.

Support for this exhibition and its national tour is provided by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Teiger Foundation, Terra Foundation for American Art, and Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

ARTISTS

listed in order of birth year

[Zilia Sánchez](#)

[Carlos Villa](#)

[Pacita Abad](#)

[Ana Mendieta](#)

[Imelda Cajipe Endaya](#)

[Judith R. Escalona](#)

[Daniel Lind-Ramos](#)

[Juan Sánchez](#)

[Felix Gonzalez-Torres](#)

[María Magdalena Campos-Pons](#)

[Juana Valdés](#)

[Lilian Garcia-Roig](#)

[Teresita Fernández](#)

Edra Soto

Miguel Luciano

Beatriz Santiago Muñoz

Rogelio Báez Vega

Stephanie Syjuco

Amber Robles-Gordon

Gamaliel Rodríguez

Sarah Sudhoff

Maia Cruz Palileo

Martha Atienza

Roldy Agüero Ablao

Guma' Gela'

Mariquita "Micki" Davis

Sherwin Rivera Tibayan

Thea Canlas

Reynier Leyva Novo

Jerome Reyes

Sara Jimenez

Enzo Camacho and Ami Lien

Celia-Yunior

Sofía Gallisá Muriente

Isa Gagarin

Camille Hoffman

Bhen Alan

Gisela McDaniel

Mariana Ramos Ortiz

Roquin-Jon Quichocho Siongco

Gi Matan Guma'

TRAVEL DETAILS

Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Puerto Rico

San Juan, Puerto Rico

August 20, 2027–February 6, 2028

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

San Francisco, California

March 17–August 13, 2028

Newark Museum of Art

New Jersey

September 28, 2028–February 18, 2029