

BLAFFER
ART MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts

Blaffer Art Museum
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**Blaffer Art Museum Presents First Solo Museum Exhibition of
University of Houston Alumna Maria A. Guzmán Capron**
On view July 15—September 18, 2022

HOUSTON, TX | MAY 9, 2022 ---

The Blaffer Art Museum presents the first solo museum exhibition of the Oakland-based artist Maria A. Guzmán Capron, opening Friday, July 15 from 6-9pm.

Capron creates fantastical hybrid figures that explore converging forms of identity, culture, desire, and social exchange. Her self-described “beyond-human characters” are made from vivid, often recycled fabrics and paint, which are stitched together to fashion sinuous bodies in various states of motion and repose. Often these bodies verge on abstraction as swathes of pattern and pure color are employed by Capron to represent a flopping, folding arm or billowing hairstyle. The contours of individual figures are subsequently lost, or melt into one another, suggesting an effervescent spillage of personality or emotion—whether it be joy, despair, lust, or introspection.

Capron was born in Italy to Peruvian and Colombian parents, before relocating with her family to Texas as a teenager. She graduated in 2004 from the University of Houston School of Art, and this will be her first solo museum exhibition in the United States. Capron’s multiple, simultaneous, and sometimes conflicting identities (and geographical locales) inform the artist’s life and process. The layered textiles seen in Capron’s exuberant assemblies also speak to her interest in the ways clothing can signify one’s history, class, gender, and/or cultural identity. For the artist, fabrics can point to specific socioeconomic associations as well as aesthetic narratives.

Capron’s outlandish characters are meant to be seen as Brown bodies that reference her family and friends, as well as her immigrant, Latinx community. As such, the figures can be seen as actors in a quest for understanding and self-acceptance; Capron recently said, “I am a new thing and I want to signal with my textiles to other in-between people that they belong.”

Maria A. Guzmán Capron (b. 1981) currently lives and works in Oakland, CA. She received an MFA from California College of the Arts in 2015 and a BFA from the University of Houston in 2004. Solo exhibitions include Shulamit Nazarian, Los Angeles, CA; Texas State Galleries, San Marcos, TX; Premier Junior, San Francisco, CA; Roll Up Project, Oakland, CA; and Guerrero Gallery San Francisco, CA. Select group exhibitions include Buffalo Institute for Contemporary Art, Buffalo, NY; NIAD Art Center, Richmond, CA; pt.2 Gallery, Oakland, CA; CULT Aimee Friberg Exhibitions, San Francisco, CA; Deli Gallery in Brooklyn, NY; and Mana Contemporary in Chicago, IL.

This exhibition is organized for the Blaffer Art Museum by Tyler Blackwell, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Associate Curator.

Major annual funding is provided by Leslie & Brad Bucher, the Stolbun Family Foundation, and the John P. McGovern Foundation. Generous support is provided by Ingrid Arneberg, Andrew & Robin Schirrmeister, and Blaffer Art Museum Advisory Board members. The following donors sustain Blaffer Art Museum in perpetuity by giving through endowments: Cecil Amelia Blaffer von Furstenberg Endowment for Exhibitions and Programs, Jane Dale Owen Endowment in the Blaffer Art Museum, Jo and Jim Furr Exhibition Endowment in the Blaffer Art Museum, Sarah C. Morian Endowment, and the Sarah Campbell Blaffer Foundation Blaffer Gallery Endowment. This project is supported in part by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts. The Blaffer Art Museum is funded in part by the City of Houston through Houston Arts Alliance.

For more information or to request high-resolution images, please contact infoblaffer@uh.edu.

About Blaffer Art Museum

Founded in 1973, the Blaffer Art Museum endeavors to further the understanding of contemporary art through exhibitions, publications, and public programs. As the gateway between the University of Houston's Central campus and the City of Houston, Blaffer Art Museum is a catalyst for creative innovation, experimentation, and scholarship. Its exhibitions and programs are free and open to the public, create community through dialogue and participation, and inspire an appreciation for the visual arts as a vital force in shaping contemporary culture.

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Visitor Information

120 Fine Arts Building
University of Houston
Houston, TX 77204

Museum Hours:
Tues-Fri, 10-5pm
Sat-Sun, 12-5pm

Admission is always free.

About Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts

The University of Houston's Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts is a premier institution for education, scholarship, and innovation in the arts, where every day we are cultivating the next generation of creative professionals and unlocking the potential of the arts to impact society and change the world. Our students are forging new frontiers and advancing the arts through academic excellence, innovative programming, and— together with our world renown faculty—ascending to the highest level of contemporary professional practice. Houston is a first choice for the arts. Houston is a city of culture and diversity, a quintessential arts destination, and a gateway to the international arts community. Steeped in the richness of diverse cultures, Houston and its engaging community network provide a citywide laboratory for research, education, and practice in the performing and visual arts.