

Fall 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:
Raphael Gatchalian
rgatchal@usc.edu
213-740-4561
<http://fisher.usc.edu>

Los Angeles-This fall, opening September 3rd, the USC Fisher Museum of Art will introduce the exhibition *Drawn to Language*, featuring five artists whose artwork captures the interaction of visual art and language.

Drawn to Language is a series of dynamic installations that variously highlight painting, photography, text, and performance. Each artist incorporates words according to a highly personal artistic vision. The artists featured in the exhibition are Susan Silton, Alexandra Grant, Holly Downing with poet David St. John, Kate Ingold, and Demián Flores in conjunction with singer Lila Downs, with Paul Cohen, and a larger group of Mexican contemporary artists named below.

As Fisher Curator Ariadni Liokatis says, "the artists in *Drawn to Language* are all attracted to words, but in entirely different ways". Selma Holo, Director of the Fisher Museum believes that the exhibition is "especially compelling for its allusions to and mingling of religion, class matters, psychoanalysis, feminism and literature". And, she adds, "that even as *Drawn to Language* is an intellectually challenging exhibition, it is also stunningly and sensuously beautiful, and in some of the galleries, participatory and performative as well".

Drawn to Language continues a long tradition at the Fisher Museum of featuring work honoring the written word in conjunction with visual art. A few such exhibitions were Michael Mazur and Robert Pinsky's *The Inferno of Dante*; Buzz Spector's *Bibliography*; Ofri Cnaani's *Sota Project*, and *Erique Chagoya*, whose art is born of comic books and super heroes from the United States and Mexico. *Blacklist*, The Jenny Holzer designed memorial garden and a pre-eminent piece of Los Angeles public art is permanently installed in front of the Fisher Museum along exposition Blvd. These, and now *Drawn to Language*, represent Fisher's enduring commitment to language and art and the influence they have on each other.

Drawn to Language will be on view at the USC Fisher Museum of Art from September 3 to December 7, 2013.

About the Artists:

Susan Silton, a Los Angeles Artist, presents a site-specific installation that engages the political undertones of the act of public reading; she uses a ribbonless typewriter to retype John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* to create an impression on the page. This installation will also include a series of framed catalog pages over which are typed poetry, and a text-based wall painting revealing ambiguity in perception, language and materiality.

Los Angeles artist [Alexandra Grant](#) takes on the task of exploring conceptions of identity with language as inspiration, and incorporates these into vibrant paintings. Her sources include Sophocles' Antigone, writer Audre Lorde and even the movements of surrealism and Feminism.

Northern California artist [Holly Downing](#) collaborates with USC faculty and poet David St John on an artist's book of images and poetry, depicting instances of ancient Peruvian culture and folksongs of the indigenous peoples of the Andes.

[Kate Ingold](#) is both a visual artist and a poet. Based in Chicago, she weaves metal thread through her photography, which are inspired by her poetry. Her work featuring the Lady of Guadalupe apparition in Chicago comments on the relationship between religion and politics and the effects of war on ecosystems.

Mexican artist and curator [Demián Flores](#) and Mexican singer [Lila Downs](#) collaborate on *Pecados y Milagros* (Sins and Miracles) featuring commissioned work from contemporary Mexican painters who refer to a vital folk tradition of votivos, giving thanks for divine favors. Downs' music album of the same name received a Latin Grammy Award for Best Folk Album. The artists included in *Pecados y Milagros* are Jose Luis Sanchez Rull, Patrick Soriano, Daniel Lezama, Enrique Avila, German Venegas, Daniel Guzman, Dulce Pinzon, Betsabee Romero, Cisco Jimenez, Marcos Castro, Marco Arce, Alfredo Vilchis, Dr. Lakra, Chema Skandall.

About USC Fisher Museum of Art

The [USC Fisher Museum of Art](#) – established in 1939 – is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. It functions as a center of intellectual inquiry and aesthetic enjoyment in support of USC's goals of research, teaching, artistic creation, and service to society. The Fisher Museum bears special responsibility to link the art in its permanent collections and the art it presents in its temporary exhibitions to all of USC's present and future audiences: to its students, faculty, staff alumni, and surrounding communities. Fisher Museum offers an array of programming, including lectures, artists talks, yoga, film screenings, concerts, and poetry readings to enhance and support its exhibitions. Fisher Museum is also proud to be the home and working laboratory for the USC International Museum Institute, a think-tank for museum professionals and a division of the USC College.

Admission is free.

Viewing hours:

Tuesday-Friday, 12-5pm

Saturdays, 12-4pm

823 Exposition Blvd

HAR 126

USC, University Park Campus

Los Angeles, CA 90089-0292

<http://fisher.usc.edu>

###