

SAN JOSE MUSEUM OF ART

The San José Museum of Art Presents *ektor garcia: loose ends*
the Artist's First Solo Museum Exhibition in California



For Immediate Release

San José, CA (July 23, 2025; updated July 31, 2025)— From October 17, 2025 through June 7, 2026, the San José Museum of Art (SJMA) will present *ektor garcia: loose ends*, the first solo museum exhibition in California by Mexico City–based artist ektor garcia. This exhibition marks a homecoming for garcia, who was born in California and spent his formative years in the Bay Area. It brings together existing and newly created sculptures in a single installation that reflects garcia's ongoing exploration of transformation, labor, and identity through material and process.

garcia's work is shaped by a rich and eclectic array of influences, from Mexican handcraft traditions passed down by his grandmother to a DIY sensibility shaped by his Bay Area upbringing. His practice also incorporates techniques learned through YouTube tutorials and global travel. He often weaves in symbols from Mexican folktales and colloquialisms, queer subcultures, and transitional architectural forms like portals, windows, and curtains. Through this layered approach, garcia challenges social and cultural hierarchies, particularly those tied to gendered and racialized labor, while rejecting fixed definitions of existence or identity.

His material vocabulary is unconventional. It includes copper wire, cast metals, glass, clay, horsehair, seashells, leather, onyx, volcanic rock, and in one instance, even a dried pig's ear which are crocheted, knotted, woven, or cast into works that are simultaneously vulnerable and resistant, soft and hard, pliable and immobile.

“garcia’s work is always evolving. His sculptures seem quiet but restless, psychologically and politically charged in their deceptive delicacy and susceptibility to change,” said Lauren Schell Dickens, SJMA’s chief curator. “At the San José Museum of Art, we look to support artists who push boundaries and reflect the complexities of our time. garcia’s practice embodies that spirit. This exhibition is a snapshot of a larger, ongoing journey and one that speaks to transformation, resistance, and possibility.”

Each piece often begins with a single stitch or gesture, gradually growing into large scale chains, fabrics, wreaths, or altar-like accumulations. He frequently dismantles earlier works, dissecting and repurposing elements for new iterations. garcia’s work opens up possibilities for making and knowing that are constantly engaged in a deliberate process of unraveling and reworking, learning, and quiet change.

In homage to the feminist thinker bell hooks, garcia stylizes his name in lowercase letters as a gesture toward fluidity and the rejection of fixed subjectivity. His sculptures reflect this ethos: diaristic, open-ended, and perpetually in flux.

Support

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ektor garcia

ektor garcia (b. 1985, Red Bluff, California, based in Mexico and elsewhere) received his BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2014, and his MFA from Columbia University in 2016. He has had solo exhibitions at the Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington at Seattle (2022), the Sculpture Center, New York (2019), and the Museum Folkwang, Essen Germany. His work has been featured in group exhibitions at the *Whitney Biennial 2024: Even Better than the Real Thing* at the Whitney Museum of Art, New York (2024); Blaffer Art Museum, Houston, Texas (2024); the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University, Palo Alto (2024); Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive (2024); San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (2022); the Griffith University Art Museum, Brisbane, Australian (2022); *Yesterday We Said Tomorrow*, Prospect 5 New Orleans (2021); *Estamos Bien: La Trienal 20/21*, El Museo del Barrio, New York (2021), Museo Tamayo, Mexico City, Mexico (2021); *Hangzhou Triennial of Fiber Art*, Hangzhou, China (2019); and many others.

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The San José Museum of Art (SJMA) is a modern and contemporary art museum dedicated to inclusivity, new thinking, and visionary ideas. Founded in 1969 by artists and community leaders, its dynamic exhibitions, collection, and programs resonate with defining characteristics of San José and the Silicon Valley—from its rich diversity to its hallmark innovative ethos. The Museum offers lifelong learning for school children and their educators, multigenerational families, creative adults, university students and faculty, and community groups. SJMA is committed to being a borderless museum, essential to creative life throughout the diverse communities of San José and beyond.

SJMA is located on Plaza de Cesar Chavez at 110 South Market Street in downtown San José, California. The Museum is open Thursday 4–9pm; Friday 11am–9pm; Saturday–Sunday 11am–6pm. Admission is \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors, and free to members, college students, youth and children ages 17 and under, and school teachers (with valid ID). Admission is free from 6–9pm on the first Friday of every month. For up-to-date information, call 408.271.6840 or visit SanJoseMuseumofArt.org.

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PRESS IMAGES

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Image credit: ektor garcia, *crochet bronze textile* (detail), 2021. Cast bronze, crocheted copper wire, 53 x 16 x 1 inches. Photo credit: Robert Divers Herrick, San Francisco. Courtesy of the artist and Rebecca Camacho, Presents, San Francisco.