



MEDIA ALERT, FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO PRESENTS
¿QUÉ ONDA?: Dressing the Part
ARTIST TALK + FILM SCREENING EXPLORING FEMININITY AND
RITUALS

Wednesday, March 18 | 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
FREE ADMISSION

WHAT

Dust off your tiaras! Artist **Polina Porras** and documentary film maker **Cristina Ibarra** discuss works that examine the performance of femininity and rituals marking the transition from girlhood. The evening will feature a screening of Ibarra's *Las Marthas* and excerpts from Porras' *Viva la Vida* followed by a conversation with our guest speakers.

“Las Marthas” provides a behind-the-scenes look into the annual debutante ball in Laredo, Texas. Part of, what is considered, the largest celebration of George Washington's birthday in the world, a select group of mostly Mexican American girls is presented at a lavish Colonial Ball. Their goal: to recreate a party hosted by Martha Washington, but this time set along the US/Mexico border. *Las Marthas* follows two of the girls as they prepare for this extraordinary rite of passage.

“Viva La Vida” is a site-specific performance outside a church in Oaxaca, Mexico, performed on February 7, 2014. The title is inspired by Frida Kahlo's last painting, a still life with watermelons. The performance addresses the weight of history, religion, and society's expectations in women's lives, through the usage of four intertwined references: the pre-Hispanic ritual of 'sacrifice,' the holy Catholic communion, the prayers of Saint Dominique of Guzman, and watermelons that symbolize life. The main character is a Quinceañera – a Mexican Sweet-Sixteen whose rite of passage becomes an unexpected transformation into the *“Woman of Gold”*.

Preview: www.vimeo.com/polinaporras



WHEN

Wednesday, March 18 from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Admission is FREE.

WHERE

El Museo del Barrio, Fifth Avenue @ 104th Street in Manhattan

TO RSVP

<https://web.ovationtix.com/trs/pr/944254>

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Cristina Ibarra is a Chicana filmmaker who has been making award-winning independent films that explore the US-Mexico border for the past fourteen years. To Ibarra the border is not only a subject – it is home. She was raised in El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Her new documentary, *Las Marthas*, premiered on Independent Lens last year. The New York Times calls it “a striking alternative portrait of border life”. Her critically acclaimed long-form PBS documentary *The Last Conquistador* had a national broadcast on POV, and USA Today called the film “Heroic.” *Sculptural Pursuit Magazine*, “Powerful.” Her short narrative film *Dirty Laundry: A Homemade Telenovela* won multiple awards including Best Short Fiction, the Audience Award, and the Jury Award at various festivals, and was broadcast nationwide on various PBS programs. Ibarra directed the narrative short *Wheels of Change* for the New York International Latino Film Festival to play before every feature film screening. Latino Public Broadcasting funded her comedic interstitial *Grandma’s Hip Hop*. She is a founding member of *fulana.org*, a Latina interdisciplinary collective, where she created award-winning satirical shorts such as *Latino Plastic Cover* and *Lupe From the Block*. She is the recipient of numerous fellowships from the Rockefeller Foundation, the New York Foundation for the Arts, CPB/PBS Producer’s Academy, the Latino Producers Academy, and Creative Capital, among others. Ibarra is an active member of the National Association of Latino Independent Producers and SubCine, the only Latino film and video self-distribution collective in the United States.

Polina Porrás Sivolobova is a Russian-Mexican multidisciplinary artist. Her artwork includes drawing, artist books, video, photography and performance. In 2014, she created and performed two major works: *Viva la Vida* and *Santa Agua-Modificada*. These performances explored Mexican iconography, rites of passage, indigenous and catholic syncretism, gender iconography, faith and nature. In 2013 Polina performed fifteen original works including *One and Not the Same Skin*, a twenty-four hour long performance, exploring the passing of time and personal transformation using clothing as a metaphor. Also in the same year she started *Collector of Stones and Other Dead Things*, an on-going project using video and photo-performance to document walking as performance and the transformation of regular objects into art. In 2010 Polina directed and produced her first documentary *Mi Abuela, Моя Бабушка* (My Grandmother, My Grandmother) about her bicultural grandmothers. In 2009, El Museo del Barrio commissioned her to create *The Three Taino Kings Puppets* for their annual Three Kings Parade. Polina’s deep interest in education and relational aesthetics has taken her to explore public



interventions as a pedagogical tool such as in *¿Dónde están Piccitos Azul?* and *Queens of Love*. Her artwork has been shown at the Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics, El Museo del Barrio, The Smithsonian Institute, The Queens Museum of Art, Grace Exhibition Space and Glasshouse in New York City and the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Oaxaca in Mexico. She received a Master in Fine Arts and Art and Design Education from Pratt Institute, New York. For more info on the artist, visit www.polinaporras.com.

ABOUT EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO

El Museo del Barrio, New York's leading Latino cultural institution, welcomes visitors of all backgrounds to discover the artistic landscape of Latino, Caribbean, and Latin American cultures. Their richness is represented in El Museo's wide-ranging collections and critically acclaimed exhibitions, complemented by film, literary, visual and performing arts series, cultural celebrations, and educational programs.

El Museo del Barrio is located at 1230 Fifth Avenue at 104 Street in New York City. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11am. to 6pm. Admission is suggested.

For more information on El Museo del Barrio, please visit www.elmuseo.org. To connect with El Museo del Barrio via Social Media, follow us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/elmuseo](https://www.facebook.com/elmuseo), and using @ElMuseo on Instagram and Twitter.

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