

# EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ESTAMOS BIEN - LA TRIENAL 20/21 PRESENTS

## *WHO DESIGNS YOUR RACE?*

### COLLECTIVE MAGPIE

Digital poetic race survey by Collective Magpie  
debuts Wednesday, September 30, 2020

[www.theracesurvey.com](http://www.theracesurvey.com)

Link goes live on September 30

#### VIRTUAL EVENT

Wednesday, September 30, 6-7pm | FREE, RSVP at [elmuseo.org](http://elmuseo.org)

**NEW YORK, NY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020**– As part of El Museo del Barrio’s year-long initiative *ESTAMOS BIEN: LA TRIENAL 20/21*, the museum announces the launch of the commissioned online archive, *Who Designs Your Race?* by San Diego-based Collective Magpie on Wednesday, September 30th at 6pm. Borrowing from the language of official surveys such as the United States and Mexican censuses, the platform converts such supposedly objective tools into a subjective, poetic exploration. Asking questions such as how and when participants FEEL race as part of one of its five sections, the survey offers a new, and artistic approach for how to think and speak about race.

In their statement for the project, Collective Magpie asserts, “we are not a color-blind nation in the United States. It is well documented that in this country race affects EVERYTHING– from salary to accessing essential resources like food, education and healthcare or how likely you are to spend time in jail or to feel welcome in your neighborhood...What if, for a moment, instead of asking you to check the box to exclusively declare your race, Uncle Sam asks you to reflect upon the question, who or what defines your race? In the daily turbulence of 2020, the topic of race has become increasingly polarizing and divisive. Can we utilize this moment to personally explore ideas of Race, **to FEEL Race** and note it, perhaps against the many forms others feel Race, in ways we haven’t before?”

*Who Designs Your Race?* is part of an ongoing art series developed by Collective Magpie that invites the public to “intervene in site-specific population statistics and generate new ideas about their own experience of race.” This newly commissioned, online survey is adapted to reflect the specific context, collaboration, and audience of El Museo del Barrio during this particular time of social distancing. Information gathered from the completely anonymous, 15-minute survey, will be used to create Collective Survey infographics, which will be on display in El Museo del Barrio’s galleries when *ESTAMOS BIEN: LA TRIENAL 20/21* opens in March 2021.

**PUBLIC PROGRAM | Wednesday, September 30, 2020, 6-7pm**

Join La Trienal curators in discussion with MR Barnadas of Collective Magpie about their online survey, *Who Designs Your Race?* which takes on the context of the

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census and other race-related survey practices. Available for the public to complete, *Who Designs Your Race?* is a commissioned online artists' project, with the collected data informing Collective Magpie infographics, which will be displayed in the galleries as part of *ESTAMOS BIEN - LA TRIENAL 20/21*. Free, RSVP at [elmuseo.org](http://elmuseo.org).

## ABOUT COLLECTIVE MAGPIE

Collective Magpie is a nomadic art entity dedicated to extending the studio into public space by working directly with and alongside local participants to create art. Through taking public space into the studio and working between different global sites and citizens, the art produced yields hybrid objects and new cultural forms – often pointing to conflicts of the present day. Founded in 2001 by Korean-American artist, Tae Hwang & artist MR Barnadas, a Canadian-born US immigrant of Peruvian (f) and Trinidadian (m) origin.

## ABOUT ESTAMOS BIEN - LA TRIENAL 20/21

*ESTAMOS BIEN: LA TRIENAL 20/21* is El Museo del Barrio's first national large-scale survey of Latinx contemporary art featuring more than 40 artists from across the United States and Puerto Rico. Curated by El Museo del Barrio's Chief Curator Rodrigo Moura and Curator Susanna V. Temkin, with New York-based artist Elia Alba as Guest Curator, the yearlong initiative launches with online projects (July 23 - October 15, 2020) and culminates with an onsite exhibition (March 13 - August 22, 2021). The full list of artists will be announced in October 2020.

Online artist projects and schedules, include Lizania Cruz (*Obituary of the American Dream*, July 23, 2020) | Poncilí Creación (*Somxs Podemx*, August 27, 2020) | Collective Magpie (*Who Designs Your Race?*, September 30, 2020) | Xime Izquierdo Ugaz (*Se Que Fue Así Porque Estuve Allí*, September 9, 2020) | Michael Menchaca (*The Wall*, October 2020). Related public programs featuring curators, artists, invited scholars and other guests will take place throughout the year. For more information, visit [elmuseo.org/la-trienal](http://elmuseo.org/la-trienal).

*ESTAMOS BIEN: LA TRIENAL 20/21* is made possible by the Jacques and Natasha Gelman Foundation. Leadership support is provided by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. Generous funding is provided by the Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Lenore G. Tawney Foundation, Tony Bechara, and La Trienal Council.

## ABOUT EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO

El Museo del Barrio, founded by a coalition of Puerto Rican educators, artists, and activists, is the nation's leading Latino and Latin American cultural institution. The Museum welcomes visitors of all backgrounds to discover the artistic landscape of these communities through its extensive Permanent Collection, varied exhibitions and publications, bilingual public programs, educational activities, festivals, and special events.

The Museum is located at 1230 Fifth Avenue at 104th Street in New York City. The Museum is open for limited hours until further notice: Saturdays and Sundays from

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12:00pm - 5:00pm. Pay-what-you-wish. To connect with El Museo via Social Media, follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. For more information, please visit [www.elmuseo.org](http://www.elmuseo.org).

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