

EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ESTAMOS BIEN - LA TRIENAL 20/21 PRESENTS

THE WALL **MICHAEL MENCHACA**

Video animation addressing the border wall
debuts Thursday, October 22, 2020

<http://www.heistthewall.com>

Link goes live on October 22

VIRTUAL EVENT

Thursday, October 22, 6-7pm | FREE, To RSVP, [click here](#)

NEW YORK, NY, October 13, 2020– As part of El Museo del Barrio’s year-long initiative ESTAMOS BIEN: LA TRIENAL 20/21, the museum announces the online launch of the video animation, *The Wall* by San Antonio-based artist Michael Menchaca on Thursday, October 22nd at 6pm. Accompanied by a score drawn from Jorge Ramos Avalos’s 2019 op-ed, “Trump is the Wall,” the video incorporates the language of video games, Mexican codices, Chicana graphics, and other popular sources to address the political and humanitarian crises related to the U.S./Mexico border wall. Released just prior to the 2020 Presidential election, the project thus addresses one of the issues surrounding the current U.S. administration.

Commenting on the project, Menchaca states, “With the virtual presentation of “*The Wall*”, my intention is to offer a space for contemplation on one of the central campaign promises of the 45th U.S. president as he seeks reelection.”

Originally displayed as a three channel video, Menchaca’s online presentation of the *The Wall* is presented as a continuously streaming loop on a custom-built, arcade-inspired website.

PUBLIC PROGRAM | Thursday, October 22, 2020, 6-7pm

Join *La Trienal* curators in conversation with artist Michael Menchaca and Claudia Zapata, Curatorial Assistant at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, for the launch of the online artist’s project, “*The Wall*.” Together they will discuss issues related to the border wall crisis through the lens of video art, gaming, and Chicana aesthetics. This event marks the fifth online artist’s project commissioned as part of [ESTAMOS BIEN - LA TRIENAL 20/21](#). Free, to RSVP, [click here](#).

ABOUT MICHAEL MENCHACA

Born in 1985 in San Antonio, TX, Michael Menchaca received his BFA from Texas State University in 2011, and his MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2015. He has been an Artist-in-Residence at the Skowhegan School of Painting and

EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO

Sculpture (ME), Vermont Studio Center (VT), The Wassaic Project (NY), The Segura Arts Studio (IN), and The Studios at MASS MoCA (MA). Exhibitions include The Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art (AR), The McNay Art Museum (TX), The Davis Museum (MA), North Carolina Museum of Art (NC), The Chrysler Museum of Art (VA), The Gilcrease Museum (OK), The Contemporary Austin (TX), and the IPCNY (NY). He was a Visual Arts Fellow at the Fine Arts Work Center from 2015 - 2016 in Provincetown, MA, and is a recipient of the 2018 National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures (NALAC) Fund for the Arts Grant. His work will be included in the upcoming exhibition, *iPrinting the Revolution! The Rise and Impact of Chicano Graphics, From 1965 to Now*, at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Menchaca lives and works in San Antonio, TX.

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) | Poncili Creación (*Somxs Podemx*, August 2020) | Collective Magpie (*Who Designs Your Race?*, September 2020) | Xime Izquierdo Ugaz (*Se Que Fue Así Porque Estuve Allí*, September 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, [click here](#).

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 will be open for limited hours until further notice: Saturdays and Sundays from 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.

###

EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO

PRESS CONTACT:

Rose Mary Cortes, El Museo del Barrio

T: 212-660-7102 | E: rcortes@elmuseo.org