

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Interactive exhibition that explores Motherhood at
San Luis Obispo Museum of Art**

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif., November 29, 2021— When visiting a museum, it is not often that you as the visitor are welcome to touch the works on display. December 4-February 28, 2022, visitors to the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA) are invited to breakdown that barrier in the exhibition *Touchy Touchy*, featuring kinetic sculptures by Central Coast based artist Marrin Lee Martinez.

Action words adjacent to the works of art invite visitors to participate with these brightly colored soft-sculptures. Created as a response to Martinez’s experience as a mother, these actions are a symbolic provoking of “The Mother,” who in turn reacts dramatically, becoming a spectacle for others to see. This engagement with these sculptures explores a mother’s physical sensitivity to their child’s constant touch. Do you dare climb, poke, spin, push, or tug? If you do, please be gentle. We wouldn’t want Mom to freak out!

Mothers often find themselves in the position of Lead Parent, handling the bulk of caregiving and domestic duties regardless of employment status. For many, the parenting experience is marred by a lack of resources, including access to affordable quality childcare and postnatal mental health services. This is certainly true for Martinez, whose practice takes place almost exclusively in the margins of time – between the moments her small child needs caring for. Each work is created with accessible materials sourced from the domestic space, materials at hand that allow Martinez to continue her artistic practice while balancing her role as Mother and Lead Parent.

“In the art world, artist mothers and the work they create about that experience are often overlooked. I am proud to see SLOMA host this exhibition that explores this historically ignored topic.” -Courtney Davis, Curator

To set up an interview or for additional information, please contact Leann Standish at lstandish@sloma.org.

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About SLOMA

The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art is located at 1010 Broad Street, on the west end of Mission Plaza in San Luis Obispo, California. It is a 501(c)(3) public benefit nonprofit arts organization dedicated to providing and promoting diverse visual arts experiences for people of all ages and backgrounds through exhibitions, education, creation and collaboration. Since 1967 this organization has been the beacon for the visual arts in its region. More information can be found at www.sloma.org.

About Marrin Lee Martinez

Marrin Lee Martinez (b. 1989) is a multidisciplinary artist living and working on California's Central Coast. Through her creative work and community engagement, she is an advocate for maternal mental health. In Motherhood, Marrin has found rhythm in the visual arts. Her work has been shown at several cause-driven events, including Phase One Foundation's Art vs. Cancer at Various Small Fires in Los Angeles. Marrin earned her Undergraduate Degree from Emerson College followed by a vibrant career in the Performing Arts. Notably, she has performed at LACMA's Bing Theatre, internationally with The Walt Disney Company and taught dance at private studios all over Southern California.