



San Luis Obispo Museum of Art Announces New Mural by Erin LeAnn Mitchell

(San Luis Obispo, CA)— San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA) is pleased to announce Erin LeAnn Mitchell as the artist commissioned for its next outdoor mural. It is the second in a series of murals which cover all four sides of the museum’s building in downtown San Luis Obispo. Scheduled to change on an annual basis, San Luis Obispo Museum of Art selects emerging artists with diverse backgrounds from across the country.

“Following the overwhelming success of museum’s first mural project *Pacificcaribbean* by Juan Alberto Negroni, this second mural has been much-anticipated,” said SLOMA Executive Director Leann Standish. “As a result of the first mural which was necessitated in many ways by the pandemic, the level of public engagement for the Museum has increased beyond our expectations. Mitchell’s work will continue this beloved program and hopefully engage our community even more meaningfully.”

A Birmingham, Alabama native, Mitchell attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, receiving her Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2011 and a Master’s in Art Education from Columbia College in 2016. Mitchell works in a variety of medium including textile design.

Most recently, Mitchell was included in a group exhibition *All Things Bright and Beautiful* at the Birmingham Museum of Art alongside Amy Sherald (known for the Obama Portraits in the National Portrait Gallery) and the influential painter Kerry James Marshall. Mitchell’s work has a robust following and has even been featured on the nationally syndicated television show, *Empire*. She was recently commissioned to create a portrait to honor Dr. Angela Y. Davis’ prolific humanitarian achievements.

Erin LeAnn Mitchell's work, *Calafia Was Here* references the fictional black warrior queen and the unrecorded histories of Black Americans in the West. The design is a nod to Erin's existing textile practice and utilizes quilting motifs and ornamented designs.

It will be painted by Mitchell with the help of two assistants beginning on February 3 and concluding on February 24. It is Mitchell's third large-scale mural project.

The project is curated by San Luis Obispo Museum of Art's Chief Curator Emma Saperstein. "While *Pacificaribbean* will always hold a very special place in our hearts, we are so excited to realize this important work of the brilliant Erin Mitchell. Conceptually powerful and visually stunning, this colorful piece will deeply contribute to the developing public art program at the City of SLO."

About San Luis Obispo Museum of Art

The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA) is the heart of the California Central Coast art community and a vital link to the cultural life of the region. It is dedicated to providing and promoting diverse visual arts experiences for people of all ages and backgrounds through exhibitions, education, creation, and collaboration. Located at 1010 Broad Street, on the west end of Mission Plaza in San Luis Obispo, California, admission to this 501(c)(3) public benefit nonprofit arts organization is free to all. More information can be found at www.sloma.org.