

**SAN LUIS OBISPO MUSEUM OF ART TO PRESENT *MARELA ZACARÍAS: STORYTELLING***

**Thursday, March 9, 2023 (San Luis Obispo, CA)** – The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA) is pleased to present *Marela Zacarías: Storytelling*. The solo exhibition is Zacarías' debut exhibition on the west coast, and will be on view March 11 – July 9, 2023. *Storytelling* brings together a series of the artist's signature floating sculptures and geometric abstractions, painted in bright, vibrant colors.

Zacarías began her artistic career as a muralist, working on a large-scale. Through that practice she grew interested in bringing walls into three-dimensional spaces, and began creating wall-mounted sculptures that undulate, twist, and turn, creating an unexpected experience for viewers. Her works, which are created using window screens and plaster, when finished are deeply expressive, capturing the sensation of motion, even while static on the wall. The works on view in *Storytelling* weave together ancient stories and myths, drawing on Zacarías' interest in exploration and reflecting on specific geographies.

"We are so excited to present Marela's first exhibition on the west coast, and to share her gorgeous and exuberant works with our audiences," said Leann Standish, Executive Director of the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art. "We love to push boundaries at SLOMA, and to surprise visitors with the unexpected. Marela's work moves beyond the traditional realm of sculpture -- it's playful, unusual, beautiful, and technically impressive as well -- all while still being approachable. There's something in the exhibition sure to delight everyone who visits."

The central work in the exhibition, *Coatlicue's Return*, references the story of the Aztec deity and earth-mother goddess Coatlicue, who symbolizes growth, destruction and rebirth. The work will be presented alongside wall-mounted sculptures such as *Striped Calathea*, *Photosynthesis*, and *Red Aglaonema*, which tell the stories of plants. In addition, visitors will be invited to interact with the works *North Wall* and *South Wall*, which are presented on mirrored window panes, allowing visitors to find themselves within the work.

To create her works Zacarías molds window screen and plaster to create the form for her sculptures. She then paints the sculptures' surfaces with geometric abstractions whose shapes and patterns are variously rooted in the history of the site that inspired the work, global textiles, and traditional weaving practices. The abstract nature of the work allows these stories and histories to be reshaped, reformed, and presented anew, incorporating traditional elements into a distinctly contemporary practice.

**About San Luis Obispo Museum of Art**

The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA) is an innovative and accessible museum located on California's Central Coast. The museum presents an outstanding exhibitions program that features artists from California and around the world, as well as an ongoing series of dynamic events that engage visitors of all ages. SLOMA is located in downtown San Luis Obispo on the west end of Mission Plaza, at the heart of the city's cultural corridor. A destination for art lovers, and those just beginning

to experience art alike, the museum provides a welcoming space and offers free admission to all. More information can be found at [www.sloma.org](http://www.sloma.org).

### **About the Artist**

Zacarías has held solo exhibitions at the Brooklyn Museum, Sapar Contemporary, Praxis Gallery, the National Arts Club, and Art at Viacom in New York; at MadArt Studio in Seattle, WA; at Wasserman Projects, Detroit, the Brattleboro Museum, Vermont and Galería Alterna in Mexico City. She has taken part in group exhibitions at Smack Mellon, BRIC, the British Society of American Art, Praxis Gallery, Y Gallery, No Longer Empty and El Museo del Barrio in New York; the Mexican Cultural Institute in Washington DC, Wasserman Projects in Detroit and at CCSU Art Gallery in New Britain, CT.

Zacarías received her BA from Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, and her MFA from Hunter College, New York. She is represented by Sapar Contemporary in New York and Galería Alterna in Mexico City. She currently lives between Brooklyn and Mexico City.