



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SAN LUIS OBISPO MUSEUM OF ART TO PRESENT *MEMORIES OF THE FUTURE*,
A SOLO EXHIBITION BY ESTEBAN CABEZA DE BACA**

Friday, January 31, 2025 (San Luis Obispo, CA) - The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art is pleased to announce *Memories of the Future*, a solo exhibition by artist Esteban Cabeza de Baca. On view in the Museum's Gray Wing February 22 – June 22, 2025, this collection of 11 paintings signifies the artist's West Coast debut.

Esteban Cabeza de Baca's paintings dance between histories, landscapes, and time – speaking to his ancestry and inviting visitors to consider all stories of immigration, Indigenous identity, and resistance. Cabeza de Baca was born into a family of labor activists working in San Ysidro, California, and spent his childhood driving the long journey between California and New Mexico. Ranging from 2015 to 2024, the eleven paintings in the gallery explore issues of belonging and identity, activism, and joy and celebration. It is the artist's first solo Museum exhibition on the West Coast.

Often painting on square canvases, Cabeza de Baca's paintings feel like snippets of time, as if recreated from a dream or a childhood memory. In *March to Sacramento*, he portrays the Delano grape workers who marched to protest poor working conditions and low wages, whose work, in collaboration with Cesar Chavez, led to the formation of the United Farm Workers, the largest farm worker union in the United States. Other works, such as *Teatro Campesino* and *Suenos*, further highlight an important conversation around agricultural labor and human rights. Throughout the work, you may notice depictions of Mexican cloth dolls gifted to the artist by his mother. The dolls ground the images in the artist's childhood while reaching towards – and remembering – the future. Works like *Medicina Lunar* and *Hybrids* use the artist's ancestral landscapes as another distinct voice before they are lost to time and memory. Esteban Cabeza de Baca's work explores the personal stories and significant civil movements that shape our perspective, sharing a clear vision for a more equal world.

“At SLOMA, we are thrilled to present this exhibition, which challenges us to see beyond the present moment and engage with the deep, interconnected stories that shape our world,” said Leann Standish, Executive Director.

This exhibition is presented by Cal Poly, Cal Poly's Office of Diversity & Inclusion, Pacific Gas and Electric Company and Sue Sacks and Kelly Sinnock, with additional support from Hotel San Luis Obispo and KSBY.

Memories of the Future, February 22 – June 22, 2025

Member Preview: Friday, February 21, 6-8pm

Artist's Talk with Esteban Cabeza de Baca: February 22 at 10:30am at the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art

About Esteban Cabeza de Baca

Cabeza de Baca has received numerous grants and awards including, a Robert Gamblin Painting Grant (2013); a Stern Fellowship, Columbia University (2013); a Sharpe-Walentas Studio Program Award (2014); a Stokroos Foundation Grant (2017); a Henk en Victoria de Heus Fellowship (2018); a NYFA Painting Fellowship (2021); and a Civitella Ranieri Visual Art Fellowship (2024). His work has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions, such as: *Bluer Than a Sky Weeping Bones*, Gaa Gallery, (2016, Provincetown, MA); *Unlearn*, Fons Welters Gallery, (2018, Amsterdam); *Verano*, with Heidi Howard, Gaa Gallery, (2018, Wellfleet, MA); *Esteban Cabeza de Baca, Gaa Projects* (2019, Cologne); *Worlds without Borders*, Boers-Li Gallery (2019, New York); *Esteban Cabeza de Baca – Life is one drop in limitless oceans ...*, Kunstfort Vijfhuizen, (2019, Amsterdam); *Nepantla*, Garth Greenan Gallery, (2021, New York); *Let Earth Breathe*, The Momentary Museum (2022, Bentonville); *Alma*, Garth Greenan Gallery (2023, New York); *West of Federal*, Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design (2023, Denver); and *Cesar's Angels*, Parker Gallery (2024, Los Angeles). He has participated in over 20 group exhibitions at venues such as the Leroy Neiman Art Center (2014, 2015, New York), the Yale University School of Sacred Music (2017, New Haven, CT), the Dutch Royal Palace (2018, Amsterdam, Netherlands), the Drawing Center (2019, New York), MoCA Tucson (2023, Tucson), and Newchild Gallery (2024, Antwerp) among others.

About the 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.

Images and attribution

"March To Sacramento", Acrylic and cochineal on canvas, 6ftx6ft, 2024. Courtesy of the artist.



"Golondrinas", Acrylic on canvas, 6ftx6ft, 2023. Courtesy of the artist.

