



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Demarcate: Territorial shift in personal and societal mapping
February 28 through May 29, 2016

Opening Reception: Sunday, February 28, 1pm-4pm

***ICA Live! Performance by Alice Raymond:
I will erase these borders with my tiny feet
To occur during reception***

San Jose, CA – The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) will open a new exhibition, *Demarcate: Territorial shift in personal and societal mapping*, on Sunday, February 28, 2016. Running through May 29, the exhibition brings together 14 artists whose work explores geographic boundaries and mapping concepts through sculpture, painting, works on paper, textile, video, installation and performance art. Curated by Bay Area curators Donna Napper and Emily Fayet, the exhibition features work that is inspired by cartographic imagery as a formal starting point. However, each artist takes a different conceptual route, examining themes such as urbanization, the natural environment, the utopia of a unified world where borders

are eradicated, and identity as it relates to emotional, social, and political needs to connect with a place.

Michael Arcega, Sandow Birk (in collaboration with Elyse Pignolet), and **Lordy Rodriguez** create social and political maps that reveal diverse interpretations of a perceived world. **Tiffany Chung** and **Matthew Picton** examine the aftermath of history, exploring the recovery and growth of cities and countries ravaged by war or heavily damaged by natural disasters. **Linda Gass** considers changes to the natural environment, while **Kim Abeles, Rob Carter,** and **Fran Siegel** look at manmade topographic changes and their effects on an ever-changing urban landscape. **Val Britton, Nikki Rosato,** and **Dimitra Skandali** reflect upon personal associations to places, while **Alice Raymond** and **Kim Rugg** ruminate on what the world would be like if borders were eradicated. On Sunday, May 15, from 3:30 to 5pm the ICA will hold an Artists' Panel to discuss the issues raised by the exhibition.

Individually, the works emphasize the human need to draw geographic lines and to locate oneself in the world. Collectively, they highlight how maps, beyond their pragmatic purpose, tell stories of relationships between a region and an individual or groups of individuals. Serving as visual narratives, the works in *Demarcate* invite the viewer to consider how the marking of territory might connect to contemporary issues such as gentrification, globalization, nationalism, and war.

Demarcate: Territorial shift in personal and societal mapping includes an interactive map for visitors to mark where they were born and where they live now. The map is presented as a tool to encourage contemplation of questions such as: How does geography define us? What do we consider our territory? Where are we really "from" – the place we were born, raised, or currently living? And what physical borders have we traversed?

Demarcate: Territorial Shift in Personal and Societal Mapping is generously supported by a grant from the Applied Materials Foundation.

Image: **Lordy Rodriguez**

America (Key Map of States and their Capitols) from the America Series, 2006

Ink on paper

Courtesy of the Artist and Hosfelt Gallery, San Francisco