

QUEER (UNDER-)WORLDMAKING IN MEXICAN AND MEXICAN DIASPORIC PERFORMANCE AND VISUAL ART

A Talk by **Laura G. Gutierrez**

Professor of Latinx and Mexican Studies, Scholar and Administrator
The University of Texas at Austin

April 7th, 2025 Waterman Memorial Lounge @ 4:30 pm

This talk draws a thematic connection between four artists whose work Gutierrez analyzes in her forthcoming book *Binding Intimacies in Contemporary Queer Latinx Performance and Visual Art*: Felipe Baeza, Carmina Escobar, Naomi Rincón Gallardo, and Rubén Ulises Rodríguez Montoya. Through their varied artistic practices, these Mexican or Mexican diasporic artists, living in and between Mexico and the United States, use pre-Columbian Mesoamerican myths, symbols, and deities as a source in their artmaking. They re-image this cluster of mythological symbols and figures and mine them for their queer (under-)worldmaking potential. Worldmaking as a theoretical paradigm has been useful in thinking about the arts' potential to remake worlds, not only construct new narratives through different types of artmaking, but to also impact our social realities, particularly for minoritized subjects. .



Laura Gutiérrez is Associate Professor in Latinx Studies in the Department of Mexican American and Latina/o Studies and Associate Dean for Community Engagement and Public Practice in the College of Fine Arts at the University of Texas at Austin. Her research areas are Latinx and Mexican performance, visual culture, queer studies, and feminisms. Gutiérrez is the author of *Performing Mexicanidad: Vendidas y Cabareteras on the Transnational Stage* (recipient of an MLA book award) and has published on Latinx performance, border art, Mexican video art, and Mexican political cabaret. She was a Scholars Fellow at the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles in 2022 and a UT Provost Author's Fellow from 2022-23. She is currently completing the book manuscript *Binding Intimacies in Contemporary Queer Latinx Performance and Visual Art*. Gutiérrez serves as co-Artistic Director of OUTsider Festival in Austin Texas.

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