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## Lorena Morales: Here, There and Everywhere

Beeville Art Museum, January 20 – April 13, 2024

**HOUSTON, TEXAS (October 24, 2023) Beeville Art Museum** will feature an exhibition by Lorena Morales, January 20 – April 13, 2024. *Here, There and Everywhere* showcases a wide assortment of Morales' work from a variety of series created between 2009 – 2023. The exhibit includes large scale sculptures, installations, drawings, and paintings. An artist's reception, free to the public, is scheduled for Saturday, January 20, from noon to 2:00 p.m.

At the heart of Morales' work is an exploration of personal themes of home and cultural identity. Having been raised in Venezuela, immigrated to the United States, and lived in Angola, Africa, Morales is continuously exploring what it means to embrace a new cultural identify, while also protecting the one she brings with her. *Here, There and Everywhere* stands as a pinnacle moment in Morales' artistic expression, further intensified by her contemplation of the recent loss of both her mother and mother-in-law. As Morales reflected, "Home is Houston; home is Venezuela; home is where my mothers are now."

Morales is known for her ability to translate elements of line, form, shape, and space into dynamic expressions of place in time. Using a variety of materials including Plexiglas, micron on mylar, embroidery, nylon, plaskolite, fabrics, wood, and acrylic mirror, Morales encourages visitors to explore and interpret her work from multiple angles fostering a personal journey and perception. "Home can be viewed differently based on where you are and your life experience," explained Morales, "This is the same experience when you view my work." Morales' artistry frequently transforms under the dynamic interplay of shifting daylight, where lines of sight, color, and shadow merge into abstract patterns that not only enliven the environment but also evoke a sense of motion and transience.

The Beeville Art Museum is housed in a Victorian-style house built in 1910 by Mr. and Mrs. R.L.

Hodges. The house served as a private residence for 72 years within the Hodges family. "Visitors will experience Lorena's exploration, interpretation and expression of home within a space that was a home for many years." commented Museum Director, Tracy Saucier. "It will truly be a transformative experience for everyone as they reflect on their own definition of what it means to be home."

Lorena Morales is a contemporary visual artist currently based in Houston, Texas. Born in Maracaibo, Venezuela, Morales holds certificates in painting and sculpture from the Glassell School of Art at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, as well as a degree in Business Administration. She completed the Block XIX Program at the Glassell School of Art and was also awarded a grant by the Carlos Cruz-Diez Foundation and the Glassell School of Art for participation in an Advanced Seminar in Contemporary Art. She was one of the selected 2021-22 Artists-in-Residence at the L'AIR Arts Research Residency in Paris, France. Last summer, she joined the hybrid art residency "Mar Adentro" at Puertas Adentro in Punta del Este, Uruguay.

Morales' work has been exhibited extensively in Texas, as well as nationally and internationally, in Venezuela, France, Uruguay and Germany. Her work is held in the permanent collection of the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston (2016), City of Houston's Civic Art Collection, George Bush Intercontinental Airport (2021) as well as in many other public and private collections. Morales is represented by **Hooks-Epstein Galleries** in Houston, Texas.

The **Beeville Art Museum**, created and operated by the **Joe Barnhart Foundation**, is first and foremost a teaching museum, providing cultural and educational opportunities for the citizens of Bee County and surrounding areas. Cited by *Texas Monthly* magazine as one of the "great small towns for art," Beeville, with a population of approximately 13,000, is home to one of the most ambitious art and educational programs in Texas. In addition to exhibiting works by some of Texas's most renowned artists, as well as selections from private collections and major museums across the state, the Beeville Art Museum provides docent-led tours and art classes for children and adults and workshops for Beeville educators at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

Lorena Morales: Here, There and Everywhere will be on display January 20 – April 13, 2024 at the Beeville Art Museum, 401 E. Fannin, Beeville, TX, 78102. The museum is open to the public 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday. Admission is always free. To contact the museum, please call 361-358-8615 or visit www.bamtexas.org.

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