



T H R E A D S

WEAVING HUMANITY

July–October 2019

Welcome to the opening celebration of

THREADS

WEAVING HUMANITY

Opening Celebration: July 19

*Montalvo Arts Center and the Lucas Artists Program are excited
to invite you to join us in a celebration of humanity.
Together, we will become a living tapestry.*

Threads: Weaving Humanity features four newly commissioned works of textile by five artists, each of whom is recognized for their role in redefining fiber arts. All of these works were created to provide opportunities for contemplation, consideration and conversation on what our shared humanity means, and what is necessary for humanity to thrive... this includes kindness, compassion, integrity, respect, empathy, forgiveness, and self-reflection.

Highly sensitive to the elements, fiber works are traditionally displayed inside carefully controlled environments of galleries and museums. Serving as an analogy for our human vulnerability, *Threads: Weaving Humanity* places these works outdoors where we can witness and appreciate the fragility as well as the resilience of the materials as they interact with the natural surroundings.



@montalvoarts // @lucasartres

plan your evening

GOOD TO KNOW

Food & Drink

Enjoy tasty fare from Oaxacan Grill, Pita & Salt, Gold Rush Eatery in Sobrato Circle.

Snack & Beverage Bars: Wine, beer, soda, and water, plus ice cream, candy, and popcorn are available for purchase in the Italianate Garden and on the Veranda.

Free Montalvo Shuttles

Run approximately every 15 minutes from West Valley College (Parking Lot 1) and Montalvo Arts Center. Final shuttle of the evening departs Montalvo at 9:30pm.

Artist Merchandise

Available for purchase in the Historic Villa.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

6–7:30pm

Ongoing Activities

In the Italianate Garden:

- Join a drum circle with Oriki Theater

On the Great Lawn:

- Create percussion sticks and dance with Xpressions
- Have a *Crochet Jam* with Ramekon O'Arwisters
- Enjoy face painting with the National Charity League
- Engage with dancers from Calpulli Tonalehqueh

On the Veranda:

- See a drumming demonstration with San Jose Taiko

In the Historic Villa:

- Learn creative sewing with the Montalvo Service Group

In the Oval Garden:

- Origami plus dance and harp demonstrations with International Performing Arts of America presenting Yang Yang Dance

On the Garden Terrace

- Activate the space with Lucas Artists Fellows Fernando Viguerras and Daniel Godínez Nivón

7:15pm

**Reading by Lucas Artists Fellow and Poet Yona Harvey
(Garden Terrace)**

7:30pm

**String Installation + Performance by
Lucas Artists Fellow Johannes Bergmark (Garden Terrace)**

7:45pm

**Join us on the Great Lawn for a sensational end to the evening!
Land Acknowledgement with Charlene Eigen-Vasquez
An Array of Performances
and *Mosaic Montalvo!***

COMMISSIONS

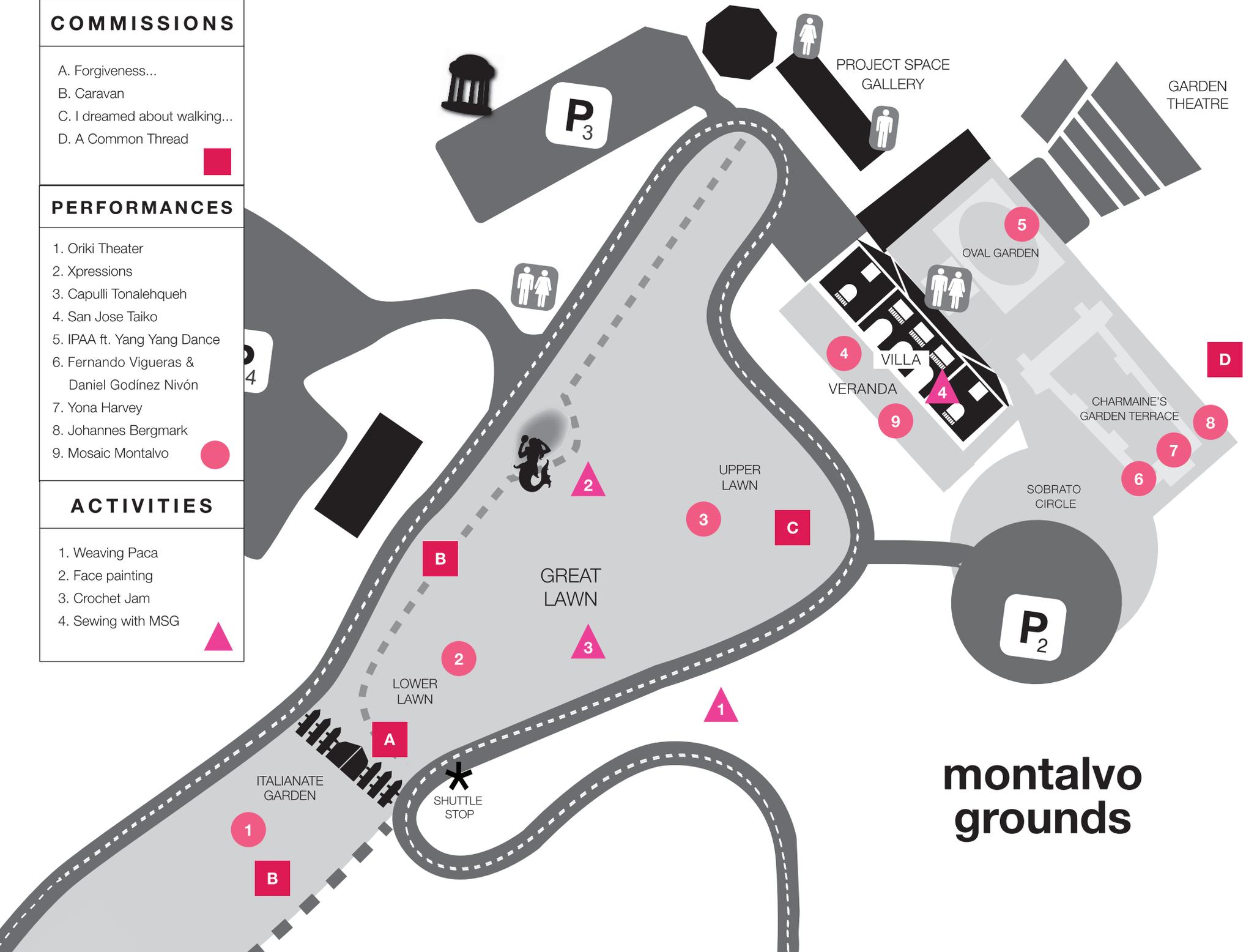
- A. Forgiveness...
- B. Caravan
- C. I dreamed about walking...
- D. A Common Thread

PERFORMANCES

- 1. Oriki Theater
- 2. Xpressions
- 3. Capulli Tonalehqueh
- 4. San Jose Taiko
- 5. IPAA ft. Yang Yang Dance
- 6. Fernando Viguera & Daniel Godínez Nivón
- 7. Yona Harvey
- 8. Johannes Bergmark
- 9. Mosaic Montalvo

ACTIVITIES

- 1. Weaving Paca
- 2. Face painting
- 3. Crochet Jam
- 4. Sewing with MSG



**montalvo
grounds**



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

ARTFORUM

COMMISSION

I dreamed about walking in the sky

YASMIN JAHAN NUPUR

Embroidery on jamdani, 11 panels 3.5" x 15'

In these brightly hued and hand-embroidered panels, you will read the concerns, hopes, and dreams of the artist as she considers the questions facing humanity today. Bangladeshi artist Yasmin Jahan Nupur has worked with *jamdani*, a centuries-old and disappearing fine weaving technique, which she uses to express individual and collective memories across time and space. In this work, whose draping forms are inspired by the memory of freshly-dyed fabric drying in the sun, the artist has taken a new approach to working with the *jamdani* by adding hand-embroidered text, bringing a traditional art form to bear on the contemporary themes addressed in the work.

The works are made up of summer colors, featuring warm shades of pink and a cool light blue. Pink, considered a feminine color in many cultures, has also become a color of protest. The blue might represent the sky and the sea, associated with open space and freedom. Nupur interjects texts across the weave: *What will happen if we break our chronological interpretation of history? Who says resistance is futile? I dreamed about walking in the sky...*

Yasmin Jahan Nupur was born in Bangladesh. After completing a master's in painting from the University of Chittagong, she is now a full-time art practitioner, creating sketches, installations, and performances. She has seen the Bangladeshi art landscape change in the past two decades, reflecting the social and political changes that have shaped the country—and the conflict is evident in her art.



COMMISSION

caravan

HELLEN ASCOLI

7 hand-built wooden structures, hand-woven fabrics, and plants

Within Montalvo's Italianate Garden and along the Great Lawn, you will find *Caravan* by **Hellen Ascoli**, an artist, weaver, and mediator living and working in Guatemala City, Guatemala and Madison, Wisconsin. Since her migration from Guatemala to Madison, Ascoli continues to ask herself, *How do you rebuild and remember at the same time? How do you make sense of where you are, when you are so deeply invested elsewhere?* *Caravan* is a reference for movement both internal and external, both physical and emotional. Today, "caravan" also carries political overtones meant to incite fear of the migrants at our southern border, while flattening the diversity of immigrant experiences into a single, consumable story.

Ascoli is most interested in material translations, in particular *pacas*, or the over-production of clothing and the cycles of fiber waste, as a metaphor for the relationship between Guatemala and the US. Today, the export of this fiber waste is threatening the textile tradition of Guatemala. Ascoli uses recycled thread from The New Denim Project and hand-weaves it using the back-strap loom, a historic tool of Mayan Guatemala, as a way to start anew. Ascoli's installations, made of wooden assemblages and bundles of fabric and flowers, are designed to evoke the movable marketplaces found in the artist's home country, where displays are built and taken apart every day. Each assemblage also carries a flowering plant, a symbol of joy but also of sacrifice and loss. Read more about The New Denim Project here: thenewdenimproject.com (Photos: Isaiah Plaza)



COMMISSION

a common thread

SUDNYA SHROFF

We have so much more in common than not.

In providing skeins of multicolored yarn and needles to my talented, multifaceted refugee sisters—who otherwise spend their time counting long, torturous days in flimsy crowded tents, at the mercy of inclement weather and fellow humans in power—my hope is to help them create space in their minds where they may otherwise have none: crocheting their meditative states into beautiful flowers.

My choice to use the colors from the rainbow as a macro representation of their delicate, detailed and breathtaking meditative stories comes from my displaced sisters themselves. When it was time to pick yarn, it became impossible to choose a single color—the delight at picking a range of vibrant hues was for us a rainbow on that rainy day. That rainbows appear indiscriminately around the world and are considered beautiful in many cultures gave us a new, all-embracing language in color. Each flower in this installation personifies this coexistence of unguarded fragility, impregnable tenacity, meticulous detail and awe-inspiring beauty.

Sudnya Shroff is a local interdisciplinary artist who immigrated to the US from India. After five years at Intel, Shroff left to pursue her passion for the arts and design, which she has used in her work as a social activist to create a voice for marginalized populations. She works on the ground with nonprofit grassroots organizations that she supports philanthropically in India (migrant remote tribes), Greece (humanitarian and environmental aid and education) and the US (cancer research, parent-child separation at the southern border, women's reproductive rights). She leverages the power of art for storytelling and for maximizing impact.



COMMISSION

forgiveness, the misplaced grace

ROCOCO

Miscellaneous fabrics, metal armature, and adhesives

At the base of the Great Lawn once sat four statues atop pedestals, referencing the four seasons. Today, the fourth pedestal is empty, its statue likely destroyed in a past earthquake. The remaining trinity are often likened to the Three Graces of Greek mythology—minor goddesses representing beauty, charm, and creativity. Situated on that vacant pedestal, RoCoCo imagines the addition not of a fourth season, but of a fourth Grace—*Forgiveness, The Misplaced Grace*.

By filling the empty pedestal and reinterpreting the sculptures, “forgiveness” is elevated to the level of a Grace, dignifying our humanity in a way that the classical Graces cannot. Just as there is a missing statue, forgiveness seems to be missing in our daily discourse, difficult to attain in an often-graceless world.

In developing this work, RoCoCo asked: *What does forgiveness look like?* The form and materials of this sculpture explore the structure of forgiveness, suggesting that the process starts heavy, dark, uneven, and awkward. Layer by layer, it is gradually refined to a lighter, more transparent and reflective condition, until it achieves a *state of grace*. With this work, a revival of grace is envisioned, and the cultivation of a season of compassion.

RoCoCo is the collaborative duo of KC Rosenberg and Modesto Covarrubias who describe their practice as “a dialogue of making.” They are interested in the juxtaposition of materials and response to space (architectural and natural) in their exploration of complex emotional states, semantics, equity, and contemporary culture. RoCoCo began collaborating in 2015 and has shown their work at such venues as Mercury 20 in Oakland and MACLA in San Jose. *(Photo: Isaiah Plaza)*



about mosaic montalvo

A collaboration between Montalvo and Sangam Arts, *Mosaic Montalvo* is a one-of-a-kind immersive event that celebrates our community and Montalvo's breathtaking landscape with performances integrated throughout the grounds.

ABOUT SANGAM ARTS

Founded in 2013, Sangam Arts provides an innovative platform for artists from diverse backgrounds to collaborate on world-class music and dance performances. Sangam Arts believes that the arts have the unique ability to expose members of our community to other cultures in a variety of accessible, entertaining, and engaging ways.

PARTICIPANTS

Charlene Eigen-Vasquez (formerly known as Charlene Sul) was born and raised in San Jose. Members of her family have lived within this 50-mile radius for hundreds of years. Her career and artwork is a reflection of a strong tie to this region of California, and incorporates both Ohlone and Mexican cultural influences. Today, Charlene is an accomplished textile artist and acrylic painter. She not only serves as a spokesperson for her tribe, but also uses her artwork to influence others, as well as her ideas to help others through self-actualization, discovery of purpose, and self-inspiration. At the age of 51 years, Charlene earned a J.D. from Mitchell Hamline School of Law and began a mediation firm. Her goal is to help families and communities use their voice to solve challenging legal problems.

Capulli Tonalehqueh is an Aztec dance and cultural diffusion group based in San Jose. Their name means "community of guardians who accompany the sun" in the Náhuatl language. Their mission is to create spaces for, facilitate the practice of, and promote community health through indigenous Mexican culture. As a nonprofit and volunteer-run collaborative, they organize ceremonial dance events, art, and music workshops, agricultural initiatives, educational summits, pan-indigenous exchange, and community outreach/activism. Through these efforts, Capulli Tonalehqueh hopes to promote and sustain cultural, physical, and spiritual well-being.



International Performing Arts of America (IPAA) is a nonprofit organization that supports local artists sustaining diverse ethnic dance, music and traditional cultural activities by providing needed services and performing opportunities. IPAA is a collective of approximately 30 artists and enthusiastic supporters who believe in the importance of cultural diversity and are passionate about performing arts.

NewGround Theatre Dance Company is a professional contemporary dance company premiering unique works that focus on the human heart connection. NewGround performs professional storyline productions that thematically encompass messages of social awareness, inner change, and well-being for ourselves and the planet. NewGround's full-length dance productions are presented to the community annually at the AUM Center. NewGround also tours locally and collaborates with other companies on various art projects, performances, and presentations.

Winner of the 2007 Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors (District 5) Unity in Diversity Award, **Oriki Theater** is a Mountain View-based nonprofit performing arts company that provides opportunities for our communities to have a shared experience of Africa through, workshops, performances and outreach programs.

San Jose Taiko's dedication to the development of the taiko art form is evident not only through performances, but also in its diverse educational programs. Since 1973, San Jose Taiko has captivated global audiences and critics alike with the powerful sounds of the taiko. The San Jose Taiko Conservatory includes nationally recognized programs like the highly acclaimed tour residencies and the Junior Taiko program, as well as the Adult Recreational Class, Public and Corporate Workshops, School Outreach Program, Taiko Intensives, and Master Classes.

Established in 2003, **Xpressions** is a leading dance group in the San Francisco Bay Area that specializes in Indian folk dance traditions. Led by Artistic Director Srividya Eashwar, Xpressions dancers take great pride in presenting traditional choreography blended in new techniques to connect with a diverse audience. Xpressions' mission is to develop, promote and sustain ethnic dance practices from India and around the world and to serve as a cultural resource to engage and enrich the community.



PARTICIPATING LUCAS ARTISTS FELLOWS

johannes bergmark

MUSIC & COMPOSITION • SWEDEN

Freelance improviser, composer, artist, inventor/builder of musical instruments, writer, educator, technician: Bergmark is all these and more. During a visit to the Surrealist Group in Chicago as a young man, he met instrument builder, artist, improviser and composer Hal Rammel, which was decisive for him: he began to invent and build his own musical instruments.

One of the founders of the Surrealist Group in Stockholm in 1986, he has also been a participant in the jester and street theater group Stella Polaris; an actor and composer in the Norwegian theatre company Eventyrteatret; and organizer for the festival Oslo Impro. He was also chairman of FRIM, the association of free improvised music and secretary of RANK, the National Association of Organizers of New Music. In addition to touring as a musician, he leads workshops in experimental musical instrument making.

yona harvey

LITERARY ARTS • USA

Yona Harvey writes poetry, nonfiction, and hybrid works that underscore issues of anxiety, microaggressions toward Black women, rebellion, and self-care. Her nonfiction chronicles her late sister's struggles with depression and how the conflicting accounts of her sister's death at an ER when seeking psychiatric care have impacted her family.

She recently contributed to Marvel's *World of Wakanda*, a companion series to Ta-Nehisi Coates's best-selling comic *Black Panther*. She is currently co-writing *Black Panther and The Crew* with Coates, and is the first Black woman to write for Marvel's iconic character Storm.

Her poetry collection, *Hemming the Water*, was awarded the 2014 Kate Tufts Discovery Award from Claremont Graduate University. Her writing appears in many publications, including *The Force of What's Possible: Accessibility and the Avant-Garde* and *Writing Away the Stigma: Ten Courageous Writers Tell True Stories About Depression, Bipolar Disorder, ADHD, OCD, PTSD & more*.

fernando vigueras

MUSIC & COMPOSITION • MEXICO

Vigueras is a fundamental figure in the avant garde music scene in Mexico. He specializes in experimental sound practices and creative forms related to free improvisation, interpretation of new music, and sound art. His work questions the objectual nature of the guitar, recreating different concrete forms of sound production.

daniel godínez nivón

VISUAL ARTS • MEXICO

Studied Visual Arts at the National School of Plastic Arts of the National Autonomous University of México. In 2011, he co-authored the book *Multiple Media 3*. In 2014, his work was presented in a collective exhibition in *Academus Garden: Art laboratories and education in MUAC*, Van Abbemuseum in the Netherlands and CCA in Glasgow.

He was in the Fellow Young Artists Program (2011-12) by the National Fund for Culture and the Arts for his *Tequio-Rolas* project. In 2014, he studied at the Superior National School of Fine Arts in Paris in the studio of Tania Bruguera.

ACTIVITIES HAPPENING ALL NIGHT

weaving paca

A *paca* is a bundle of discarded clothing, new or used, that amass in the United States and are sold to developing countries at a significantly reduced rate, endangering local and regional textile trades. In response to *Threads: Weaving Humanity*, Lucas Artists Program Guest Artist Hellen Ascoli worked with Montalvo staff to develop a participatory loom that invites **you** to add your creativity to the exhibition! *Weaving Paca* is a site for thinking while making, as the loom will be fed with fabric/clothing waste that was intended for export from the US to Central and South America. (Photo courtesy Hellen Ascoli)

sewing with the service group

Throughout the night, the Montalvo Service Group will host a creative sewing project in the historic Villa. Stop by to participate, shop their pop-up boutique, and learn more about the auxiliary that has supported the upkeep of Montalvo Arts Center and its educational programs since 1954.

crochet jam

RAMEKON O'ARWISTERS

Crochet Jam is designed to engage the public to think differently about the role of art within community and the power of art within society. *Crochet Jam* is a public art-making event that's embracing and inclusive, with no dictating the creative process nor judging the finished project—it is meditative, liberating, and empowering. Ramekon O'Arwisters started *Crochet Jam* in 2012. His social-art practice is rooted in a cherished childhood memory that's steeped in the African-American tradition of weaving, in a calm and non-judgmental environment, without rules or limitations. Join the artist under the Ginkgo Tree on the Great Lawn and try your hand at crochet! (Photo courtesy VCU Arts)





about montalvo arts center

Montalvo Arts Center's mission is to engage the public in the creative process, acting as a catalyst for exploring the arts, unleashing creativity, and advancing different cultural and cross-cultural perspectives. We achieve our mission by creating and presenting arts of all types, nurturing artists, and using our historic property in innovative ways. This extraordinary physical environment coupled with a rich diversity of multigenerational visitors and artistically excellent programs make Montalvo a unique multidisciplinary arts organization that has become a place for people of all ages and all walks of life to engage in meaningful, accessible, and inspiring arts experiences.

about the lucas artists program

Housed within Montalvo Arts Center, the Sally and Don Lucas Artists Residency Program (LAP) is a creative incubator dedicated to supporting the creative process for artists from all creative disciplines and geographical locations. The LAP encourages the creation of new and adventurous works, supports risk taking, collaboration and cross-disciplinary investigation of contemporary issues. It's also a cultural producer and presenter, continually seeking new ways to engage the public in the artistic process and works of its Artist Fellows.

See what's happening at the LAP by visiting the online archive:

montalvoarts.org/lap



CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

the mending project

LEE MINGWEI

On September 18, 2019, Montalvo will celebrate the opening of a new installation: *The Mending Project* by internationally acclaimed visual artist Lee Mingwei. Born in Taiwan in 1964 and currently living in Paris and New York City, Lee Mingwei creates participatory installations where strangers can explore issues of trust, intimacy, and self-awareness, and one-on-one events where visitors contemplate these issues with the artist through eating, sleeping, walking, and conversation.

The Mending Project is an interactive conceptual installation featuring several simple elements—thread, color, and sewing—as a point of departure to create meaningful, tangible connections between strangers. Community members will be invited to bring a garment or textile in need of repair to Montalvo. Inside the installation, they will meet a volunteer mender at a table and be invited to select a thread from several spools mounted to the wall. The volunteer mender will invite visitors to sit and talk while their garment is mended. The mended article, with threads still attached, will remain on the table until the conclusion of the exhibition, when visitors can retrieve their mended items.

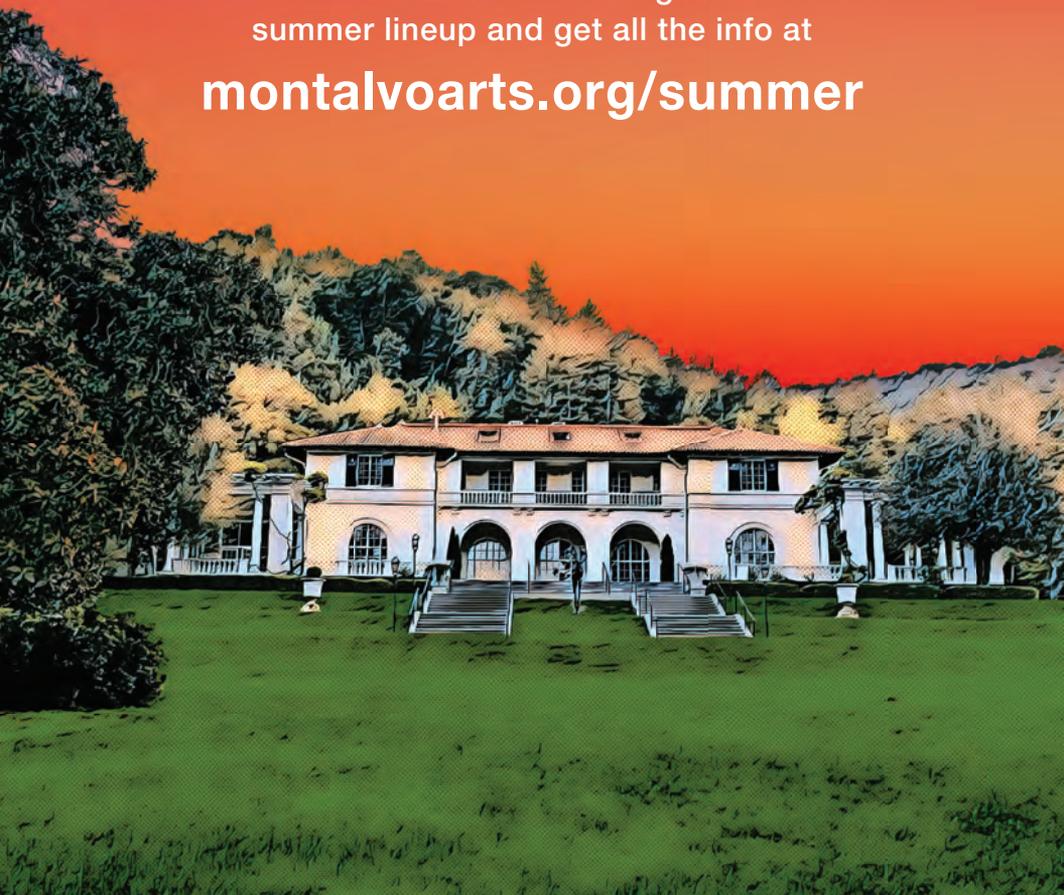
The Mending Project will serve as a bridge from the summer's celebration of diversity and community, and open a new thematic conversation around the topic of the global loneliness crisis. Learn more about *The Mending Project* and related programming at montalvoarts.org/mending. (Photo courtesy Taipei Fine Arts Museum)

Montalvo Summer Nights

Chris Botti returns to the Garden Theatre stage,
plus nights of live music and dance,
free outdoor movies on the lawn,
after-hours art classes,
and a slumber party under the stars.

Don't miss a moment of the magic: see the full
summer lineup and get all the info at

montalvoarts.org/summer

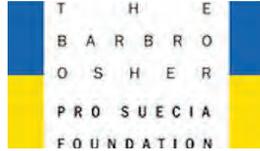


thank you to our sponsors

Threads is made possible through the support of the following program partners, exhibition sponsors, and Friends of the Lucas Artists Program:



George & Judy Marcus



FACEBOOK ART DEPARTMENT



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Dominic Orr • Wanda Kownacki • Kathie & Bob Maxfield



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CREATE YOUR OWN LEGACY

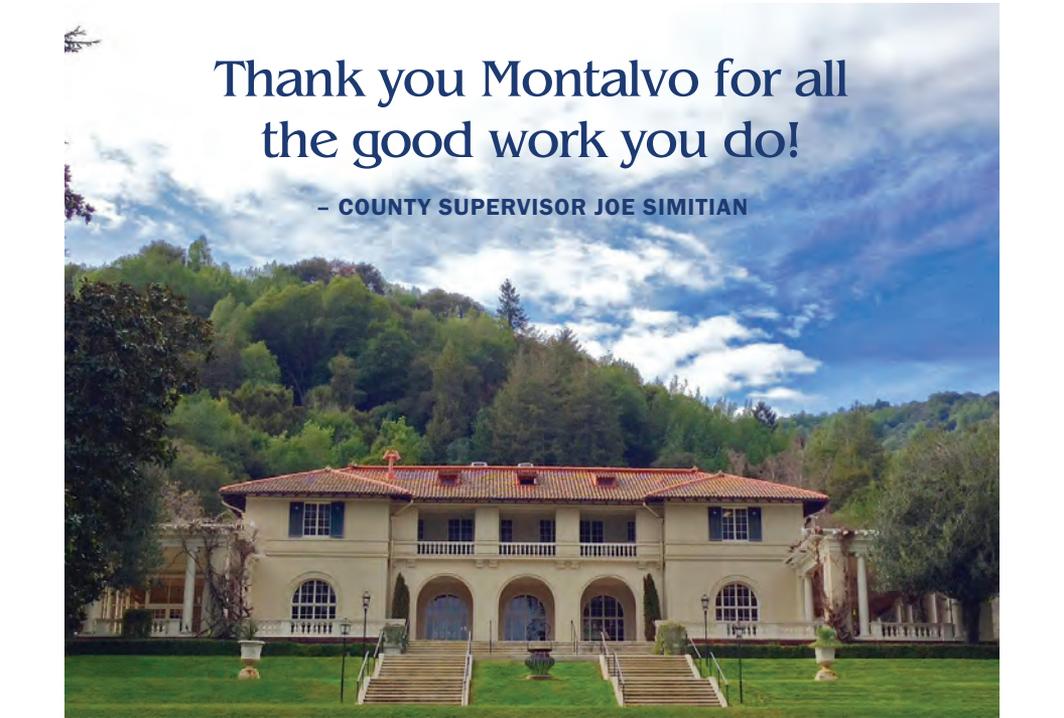
You can also support Montalvo by making a planned gift and joining the Griffin Society. Planned giving can be an easy and tax-efficient way to make an impact, and is more affordable than you may think! Ways to join include: making a provision in your will or trust; designating Montalvo as a beneficiary in an IRA, 401(k), life insurance policy, or donor-advised fund; visit montalvoarts.org/griffin to learn more.



The Facebook Art Department includes the Artist in Residence and Analog Research Lab programs, which both encourage creativity, innovation, openness, and connectivity through art and design.

**FACEBOOK
ART DEPARTMENT**

Find us and learn more at:
@fbairprogram @analoglab



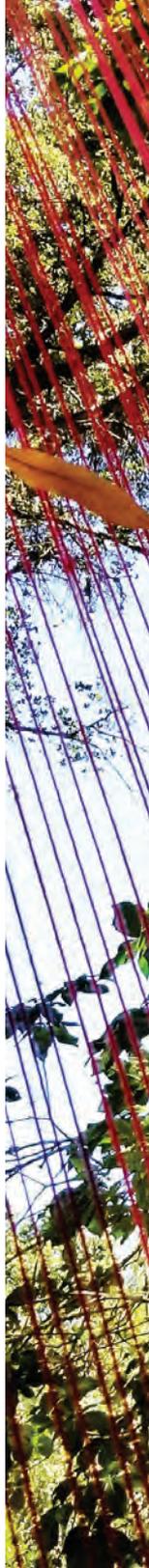
**Thank you Montalvo for all
the good work you do!**

- COUNTY SUPERVISOR JOE SIMITIAN

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