



ARTS DISTRICT

LIBERTY STATION

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**Arts District Liberty Station Announces Francisco Eme as New Curator-in-Residence for Gallery 201
Exhibition *Fragmented Stories***

Curated by Francisco Eme, the new Gallery 201 exhibition features Emerging Artist Residency alumni exploring identity, belonging and life in the border region and will run through July 17

SAN DIEGO (March 5, 2026) – Arts District Liberty Station is proud to announce **Francisco Eme** as the newest Curator-in-Residence as part of the David G. Fleet Curator-in-Residence Program, debuting with the exhibition *Fragmented Stories* in Gallery 201. Running Thursday, March 12 - July 17, 2026, the exhibition features new works by Emerging Artist Residency alumni Eden DeLaVara (San Diego) and Marcela Alarcón López (Tijuana).

Following the successful framework established in prior Gallery 201 exhibitions, the Curator-in-Residence program continues to support regional curators in mentoring emerging artists and shaping dynamic exhibitions within Arts District Liberty Station's creative community, further strengthening the district's role as a cultural hub for the region. Recently, Arts District Liberty Station was selected as one of California's newest state-designated cultural districts by the California Arts Council, recognizing its thriving creative ecosystem and impact on the state's leading arts economy.

"Gallery 201 continues to be a platform for elevating the next generation of artists and curators in our region, and we're thrilled to welcome Francisco Eme as our newest Curator-in-Residence," said Lisa Johnson, President & CEO of Arts District Liberty Station. "His deep connection to the San Diego–Tijuana arts community brings an important perspective to this exhibition, and *Fragmented Stories* reflects the kind of thoughtful, timely work we are proud to showcase at Arts District Liberty Station."

Fragmented Stories showcases two painting projects created during DeLaVara and Alarcón López's six-month Emerging Artist Residency for Visual Arts from July 2025 through January 2026. Working from a studio inside Arts District Liberty Station, the artists engaged directly with visitors and fellow creatives while developing deeply personal and socially resonant bodies of work. The exhibition explores themes of belonging, border identity, multicultural experience, and the realities of living and creating in the San Diego–Tijuana region amid social and political uncertainty.

“These projects reflect the lived experiences of many in our region today,” said Francisco Eme. “From navigating family histories and cultural identity to the daily act of crossing borders to create, these works speak to resilience, community, and shared humanity.”

Francisco Eme is a composer, multimedia artist, and curator whose practice integrates sound, visual media, and community engagement. He currently serves as Arts & Culture Director at Casa Familiar and Gallery Director at The FRONT Arte & Cultura, a transborder cultural space in San Ysidro connecting San Diego and Tijuana. His work has been presented nationally and internationally, and he was awarded the San Diego Art Prize in 2024. As part of the Curator-in-Residence program, Eme will also collaborate with The FRONT gallery team to support installation and develop supplementary public programming tied to the exhibition.

Gallery 201 continues its mission to champion early-career artists from the San Diego–Baja region through the Emerging Artist Visual Arts Residency program, providing studio space, mentorship, and vital support resources while offering artists the opportunity to exhibit their work publicly and gain recognition within the broader regional arts and culture community.

The community is invited to stop by Gallery 201 at Arts District Liberty Station for a free opening reception of *Fragmented Stories* on Thursday, March 12 from 4 to 7 p.m. Visitors will have the opportunity to meet the artists and curator, explore their work, and engage in conversation about the creative process.

Opening Reception:

Thursday, March 12, 2026 | 4–7 p.m.

Gallery 201

Arts District Liberty Station
2820 Roosevelt Road
San Diego, CA 92106

About Arts District Liberty Station

Celebrating 25 years as a premier arts and cultural destination in San Diego, Arts District Liberty Station continues to transform the former Naval Training Center into a vibrant community where creativity thrives. Spanning 100 park-like acres, it is home to more than 100 museums, galleries, artist studios, dance companies, dining destinations, creative retailers and cultural organizations. As one of the California Arts Council’s state-designated Cultural Districts, Arts District Liberty Station offers visitors the opportunity to experience the arts, culture, and cuisine that define the San Diego region while exploring a historic setting that continues to inspire generations. Its 25th anniversary campaign, *Creating, Connecting, Celebrating – 25 Years and Growing*, supports arts education, public art, and community programming. Learn more at www.artsdistrictlibertystation.org.