

Friday, August 29, 2025 at 4:00:28 PM Pacific Daylight Time

Subject: EM: Carmen Argote: gajes del oficia Community Preview & Opening Reception
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From: Pitzer College Art Galleries

● Pitzer College
● **Art Galleries**





Fall Exhibition Announcement

Pitzer College Art Galleries presents [*gajes del oficio*](#), a new site-specific installation by Los Angeles-based artist Carmen Argote.

The exhibition centers two historically gendered labor forces in Southern California—garment manufacturing and citrus farming—connecting the long line of seamstresses in Argote’s family to the regional shift from citrus agriculture to logistics warehouses that proliferate throughout the Inland Empire.

For this exhibition, Argote asks what it means to live and work in an economic system shaped by low-wage immigrant labor, where patterns of consumption and desire are deeply rooted in histories of colonization. *Gajes del oficio*, a Spanish phrase that translates roughly to “occupational hazards” or “snags of the trade,” offers a framework for considering the extractive histories that support these economies that create distance from the labor, the produced good, and the consumer.

Central to this project is Argote’s collaboration with her mother, Carmen Vargas, who learned to sew from her own mother and built a career as a seamstress after immigrating to Los Angeles from Mexico in the 1980s. For Argote, integrating this trade into her practice is an act of care, connection to her family, as well as a means for survival. By weaving together personal, familial, and regional histories of these industries, Argote invites viewers to consider how they shape our economy, the environment, and

everyday life.

Carmen Argote (b. 1981, Guadalajara; lives and works in Los Angeles) received an MFA and BFA from University of California, Los Angeles (2007, 2004). Selected solo exhibitions have been held at Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2023); Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego (2022); Primary, Nottingham (2021); Clockshop, Los Angeles (2020); New Museum, New York (2019); PAOS, Guadalajara (2019); MAK Center for Art and Architecture, Los Angeles (2015); and Vincent Price Art Museum, Los Angeles (2013). Argote is a recipient of Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award (2019), Artadia Los Angeles Award (2019), and California Community Foundation Fellowship for Visual Artists (2013).

[*Carmen Argote: gajes del oficio*](#)

Exhibition Dates: September 13 - December 6, 2025

7C Community Preview : Wednesday, September 10, 2025, 4 - 6 pm

Opening Reception : Saturday, September 13, 2025, 5 - 7 pm

Preview and Reception: [Nichols Gallery](#)

[Visit](#)

Wednesday - Saturday, 1 - 4 pm

[Nichols](#) and [Lenzner](#) Galleries

Exhibitions and events are free and open to the public
