

THE PRINT CENTER 93RD ANNUAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 3, 2019

CONTACT: Michele Bregande, 215.735.6090 x5 | mbregande@printcenter.org

93rd ANNUAL

Rafael Soldi: CARGAMONTÓN
Jason Urban & Leslie Mutchler: Long Lost Friend
Chinn Wang: Soaking Up Local Color

January 18 — March 30, 2019

Opening Reception: Thursday, January 17, 6:00 – 7:30pm

Gallery Talk with the Artists: Thursday, January 17, 5:30pm

Rafael Soldi Artist Lecture: Wednesday, January 23, 6:00pm

PHILADELPHIA, PA - (January 3, 2019) The Print Center is pleased to present solo exhibitions of new work by **Rafael Soldi** (Seattle, WA), **Jason Urban & Leslie Mutchler, JULM Studios** (Brooklyn, NY) and **Chinn Wang** (Boulder, CO). These artists were selected from more than 450 international artists who



Rafael Soldi, *Imagined Futures* (detail), 2018
Gelatin silver prints

applied to our **93rd ANNUAL International Competition**.

The jurors were **José Diaz**, Chief Curator, The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh and **Lisa Sutcliffe**, Herzfeld Curator of Photography and Media Arts, Milwaukee Art Museum.

The Print Center's **ANNUAL** is one of the oldest and most prestigious competitions in the United States. It highlights local, national and international artists who utilize photography and printmaking in intriguing ways, both in content and process.

The artists selected for the **93rd ANNUAL International Competition** solo exhibitions address questions and issues critical to the current role of the printed image. All three shows are concerned with the role of mediation of the printed image, both literally through process as well as contextually. Rafael Soldi's manipulation of video capture in still photographs, Chinn Wang's translation of photographs into screenprints with partial erasure of image and Jason Urban & Leslie Mutchler's rephotographing of contemporary and historical texts and images, reposition the meaning and impact of the source material. Additionally, Soldi and Wang speak powerfully and directly to the emotional residues which echo through immigrant families. The **ANNUAL** always draws out content relevant in contemporary art and society, and this year is no exception.

- Elizabeth F. Spungen, Executive Director

Rafael Soldi: CARGAMONTÓN

Born and raised in Peru, Rafael Soldi has lived in several U.S. locales. The exhibition includes work from his newest body of work, *CARGAMONTÓN*, alongside a recent photo-installation titled *Imagined Futures*. Both projects expand on the artist's identity as a way to address more universal concerns of immigration, queerness and memory.

Cargamontón is a Spanish word in the Peruvian vernacular. It is defined as the harassment of one person by several; it is also the name of a school game, wherein a group of schoolmates pig-pile atop a boy, smothering him under a crush of bodies. The works in *CARGAMONTÓN* reflect on the playground politics of Soldi's youth and are sourced from found footage of violent and oppressive rites performed by school boys.

Presented concurrently, *Imagined Futures* is an installation of 25 seemingly identical self-portraits. These works address a concern universal to all immigrants: how does one grieve the life left behind in order to live a new one? What is to be done with the haunting visions and questions about the lives left behind? Soldi created the images in a photo booth, ritualizing a process intended to capture and bid farewell to unrealized futures.

Jason Urban & Leslie Mutchler: Long Lost Friend



Jason Urban & Leslie Mutchler, *Long Lost Friend* (detail), 2018, Multi-media installation

The collaborative team of Jason Urban and Leslie Mutchler (JULM Studios) creates research-intensive projects which examine the purpose and functionality of the printed form and the use of handcraft. Their projects investigate the evolving meaning of printed matter and the "sacred space" it occupies, always cognizant of the increasing shift from analog to digital technologies in our day-to-day lives. In recent works, they have employed a practice of pseudo-bibliology through studying books, printing and publishing. *Long Lost Friend* assumes the form of a totemic archive of folk magic-inspired material.

In conjunction with the exhibition, Urban and Mutchler have created *Water-Worn Bricks*, *Pi Stones*, *Chalk Rocks*, and *Smudge Sticks: An Object Archive*, a limited edition book printed by Lucky Risograph Press, NY.

Chinn Wang: Soaking Up Local Color

Chinn Wang uses coded visual language and symbolic iconography to examine the subjective nature of personal narrative and history as well as the fluidity and ambiguity of memory. Her current interests include floriography, sacred symbols, fortune-telling and moments of spectacle in popular culture.

The works in the exhibition are based on photographs of Wang's mother during her first years in the U.S. after emigrating from Hong Kong. The prints highlight her mother's status as a woman, an immigrant and a scientist, three groups currently imperiled in American society, by removing her image from the pictures. The absence splices the picture plane while referencing the lost sense of lineage, heritage and identity common to immigrants.



Chinn Wang, *The Hermit & The Magician*, 2018, Screenprint

About the Artists

Rafael Soldi (b. 1987, Lima, Peru) is a Seattle-based artist and curator. He holds a BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore. His recent practice has focused on the visceral qualities that drive transcendental experience and his search to define his identity as a queer Latino man. He has exhibited at ClampArt, NY; Frye Art Museum, Greg Kucera Gallery and PCNW, all Seattle; American University Museum, Washington, DC; Griffin Museum of Photography, Winchester, MA; and Vértice Galería, Lima, among others. He has received a Magenta Foundation Award, a Puffin Foundation grant and residencies at the Vermont Studio Center, PICTURE BERLIN and Oxbow Space. His work is held in the permanent collections of the Maryland Institute College of Art; Frye Art Museum and King County Public Art Collection, both Seattle; and Tacoma Art Museum, WA. He has been published in *PDN*, *Dwell*, *Metropolis* and *LUXE* and reviewed in *The Seattle Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *Pittsburgh Tribune* and *PDN*.

Jason Urban and **Leslie Mutchler** are based in Brooklyn, NY. They create research-intensive projects that examine the purpose and functionality of the printed form. Trained as printmakers, Urban and Mutchler define print expansively and utilize an interdisciplinary approach. Together they have exhibited in galleries across the U.S. including Grizzly Grizzly, Philadelphia; Artist Image Resource, Pittsburgh, PA; and SPACE Gallery, Portland, ME. Internationally, they have exhibited at numerous venues including the Center for Fine Print Research, University of West England, Bristol; Wandesford Quay Gallery, Cork, Ireland; and Atelier Circulaire, Montreal, Canada. Awarded residencies include Edition/Basel, Switzerland; Frans Masereel Centrum, Belgium; and Cork Printmakers, Ireland.

Urban holds a BFA from Kutztown University, PA and an MA/MFA from the University of Iowa, Iowa City. He is the recipient of a Creative Capital Arts Writers Grant and a Curatorial Stipend from the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, NY. Urban co-founded Printeresting.org and regularly writes for the journal *Art in Print*.

Mutchler holds a BFA from Kent State University, OH and an MFA from Tyler School of Art, Temple University, Philadelphia. Mutchler is Chair of the Foundation Department, Pratt Institute, NY.

Chinn Wang (b. 1981, Columbus, OH) has a BA from the University of California, Berkeley and an MFA from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She has exhibited nationally and internationally at venues including the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, CO; Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, Grand Rapids, MI; John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI; Korean Cultural Center, Beijing, China; and Neurotitan, Berlin, Germany. She has been a resident artist at RedLine and Failure Lab at the Museum of Contemporary Art, both Denver and received a Santo Foundation Award. She is Teaching Associate Professor and Foundations Coordinator in the School of Art & Art History at the University of Denver and lives in Boulder, CO.

About The Print Center's ANNUAL International Competition

The **ANNUAL** is one of the oldest and most prestigious competitions in the United States. Each year the **ANNUAL** is juried by distinguished colleagues in the field. Artists who use printmaking and/or photography as critical components of their work, or whose work pushes the boundaries of traditional photographic and printmaking practices, are encouraged to enter. This reflects The Print Center's interest in the use of photography and printmaking in intriguing ways, both in content and process.

Awards for the ANNUAL include three prestigious museum purchase awards: the Michener Art Museum Photography Patrons Circle Purchase Prize, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts Purchase Award and Stinnett Philadelphia Museum of Art Collection Award. Additional recognitions include the *Art in Print* Awards, Awagami Paper Award, *BOMB* Magazine Award, Callan/McNamara Award, Olcott Family Award, *The Photo Review* Award, The Print Center Gallery Store Award, The Print Center Honorary Council Award, Renaissance Graphic Arts Award, Society for Photographic Education Award, Trinity Framing Award and Jacqueline L. Zemel Prize for Printmaking.

About the Jurors



Photo: Abby Warhola

José Diaz, a native of Miami, is the Chief Curator at The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, and a 2018 fellow at the Center for Curatorial Leadership (CCL). Prior to joining The Andy Warhol Museum, he was the Curator of Exhibitions at the Bass Museum of Art in Miami Beach where he curated artist commissions by Athi-Patra Ruga, Sylvie Fleury, the exhibition *GOLD* and organized *One Way: Peter Marino*. He has worked at the Tate Liverpool and the Liverpool Biennial. Diaz received an MA from the University of Liverpool and a BA from San Francisco State University. In 2003, Diaz served as a Curatorial Intern at The Rubell Family Collection and launched a nomadic curatorial project called *Worm-Hole Laboratory*.



Photo: Carlos Arrieta

Lisa Sutcliffe is Herzfeld Curator of Photography and Media Arts at the Milwaukee Art Museum, where she oversees the Museum’s Herzfeld Center for Photography and Media Arts. She has organized several exhibitions for Milwaukee, including *Postcards from America: Milwaukee* (2014); *Rineke Dijkstra: Rehearsals* (2016); *Penelope Umbrico: Future Perfect* (2016); and *Paul Druecke: A Social Event Archive, 1997–2007* (2017). From 2007-2012 she served as Assistant Curator in the

Photography Department at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA), where she organized *Naoya Hatakeyama: Natural Stories* (2012) in association with the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, and *The Provoke Era: Postwar Japanese Photography* (2009), the first survey of SFMOMA’s internationally renowned collection of Japanese photography. She holds an MA from Boston University, MA, and a BA from Wellesley College, MA.

About The Print Center

For more than a century, The Print Center has encouraged the growth and understanding of photography and printmaking as vital contemporary arts through exhibitions, publications and educational programs. The Print Center has an international voice and a strong sense of local purpose. Free and open to the public, it presents changing exhibitions which highlight established and emerging, local, national and international contemporary artists. It mounts one of the oldest art competitions in the country, now in its 93rd year and the Gallery Store offers the largest selection of contemporary prints and photographs available for sale in Philadelphia, as well as being available online at printcenterstore.myshopify.

Funders

Support for The Print Center is offered by the Edna W. Andrade Fund, Brilliant, Bryn Mawr Trust, Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation, Forman Family Fund, Sheila Fortune Foundation, Freeman’s, Fund for Children, Allen Hilles Fund, Lenfest Foundation, Lindback Foundation, Christopher Ludwick Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, William Penn Foundation, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, Philadelphia Cultural Fund, The Philadelphia Foundation, Rosenlund Family Foundation, University of the Arts, University of Pennsylvania Office of Government and Community Affairs, Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial and our Board of Governors, Luminaries, members and friends.



The Print Center

1614 Latimer Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
p: 215.735.6090 info@printcenter.org

Free and open to the public
Tuesday through Saturday 11:00am - 6:00pm

For information on events and programs visit www.printcenter.org
facebook.com/printcenterphilly
@ThePrintCenter #ThePrintCenter #93rdANNUAL

###