

The Print Center Announces a Philadelphia-Debut Exhibition *Cecilia Paredes: By my side or back of me*

April 18 – July 19, 2025



(left to right) Cecilia Paredes, *Weaver with Plant*, 2019, inkjet print on canvas, 58" x 87"; *Dreaming Rose*, 2009, inkjet print on Dibond, 47" x 47"

PHILADELPHIA, PA – The Print Center is pleased to present *Cecilia Paredes: By my side or back of me*, the Philadelphia debut for the Peruvian-born, internationally recognized artist. On view April 18 – July 19, 2025, the solo exhibition presents Paredes' exceptional performative photographic self-portraits as well as an immersive, site-specific, sculptural installation created from "wishes" contributed by visitors to The Print Center. Together, these works address the themes of migration and home, nature and the manmade, and the poetics of a collective voice. An opening reception for the exhibition and a gallery talk with Paredes will take place on Thursday, April 17, from 5:30 – 7:30pm.

In conjunction with the exhibition, we will present a new iteration of "**Windows on Latimer**," an ongoing series of installations in The Print Center's iconic bay window, featuring Paredes' work *Eve II*, 2018, from April 7 – 17, 2025.

The Print Center is pleased to introduce the renowned Latin American artist to Philadelphia audiences – this will be her first show in the city she has lived and worked in for twenty years. In her

work, Paredes deftly brings together both image-based and performative works, for which she draws from many sources, including formative childhood experiences, Peruvian history from ancient civilizations through Spanish conquest, and an abiding reverence for nature. A move to Costa Rica in the late 1990s affirmed Paredes' passion for landscape, mythologies, cosmologies, literature and anthropology that continue to this day. These themes are woven throughout the exhibition, which will be presented in all three of The Print Center's galleries. Published Gallery Notes will complement the exhibition, featuring essays by the exhibition's curator Lauren Rosenblum and art historian Joanna García Cherán.

The Print Center is honored to share the work of internationally recognized artist Cecilia Paredes with our Philadelphia audience, and to be the first venue to exhibit it in the city she now calls home. We are delighted to welcome Cecilia to our community, and to have such an accomplished artist recognize the value and contribution that The Print Center makes to our city and our field.

– Elizabeth Spungen, Executive Director



(left to right) Cecilia Paredes, *The Encounter*, 2020, inkjet print, 50" x 75"; installation view, *Wishes in the Air*, 2015, Tabacalera Art Promotion Space, Madrid, Spain

The first floor gallery will feature Paredes' series "Landscapes," which she describes as "photo-performances." In this series, her body is painted to be camouflaged against elaborately patterned, floral backgrounds – so immersed in her surroundings that the viewer can hardly tell where her body begins and ends. The preparation process can involve up to nine hours of meticulous painting as she carefully transforms her body to match the delicate petals and leaves of the chosen backdrop. In these photographs, the artist suggests the complexities of migration, in which an individual exists in a new place yet is still hidden from full recognition. The all-over patterning, use of symbolic textile design and performative self-portraits connect Paredes' practice to that of a number of female photographers using similar strategies to investigate identity, such as Patty Carroll, Lalla Essaydi, Rania Matar and Shirin Neshat.

On the second floor, the Zemel Family Gallery will be filled with large-scale photographs from the “Abandoned” series, comprised of Paredes’ photo-performances in empty 19th century industrial buildings in the Philadelphia area. Paredes wears patterned dresses that replicate elements of the environment, bearing witness to the buildings’ architectural and material remains. Highly-detailed and panoramic in scope, the images depict the artist moving through the sites like a contemporary specter, revealing the slow process of nature reclaiming the manmade, and responding to the artist’s deeply held environmental and societal concerns.

In both the “Landscapes” and “Abandoned” series, photographs capture the artist performing in a deliberately constructed or chosen space to highlight the continuum in the beauty of the natural world and manmade ornamentation.

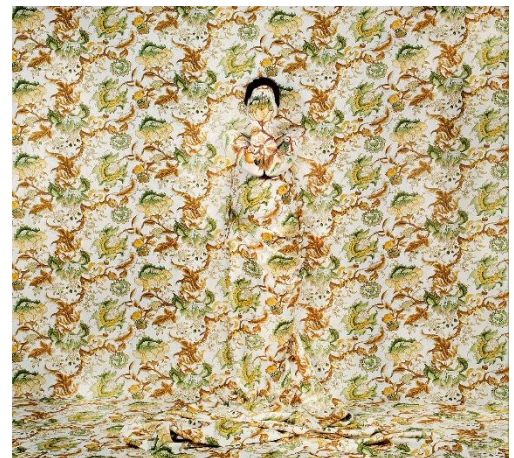
Also on the second floor, Paredes will create a sculptural “tornado” of paper ribbon that, like her “Abandoned” series, responds directly to the architecture of The Print Center’s 19th century carriage house. Her ambitious installation titled *Wishes* will fill the lofty, light filled room with a continuous band of printed, anonymous desires, originally collected from previous visitors to The Print Center. Over the years, Paredes has presented various iterations of this piece, each responsively designed for its exhibition space, conveying both the wishes from the people local to that area of the world as well as the poetics of a collective voice.

Support for the exhibition has been provided by the Edna W. Andrade Fund of the Philadelphia Foundation.

Windows on Latimer

In conjunction with the exhibition *Cecilia Paredes: By my side or back of me*, we will mount a new iteration of the highly regarded series “**Windows on Latimer**” from April 7 – 17, 2025 featuring Paredes’ photograph, *Eve II*, 2018. From the series “Landscapes,” the artist is depicted standing amid a floral textile, hands covering her face, evoking both the idyllic natural setting of the Garden of Eden and Eve’s eventual expulsion.

“Windows on Latimer” presents the vital work of Philadelphia artists in The Print Center’s iconic, street-facing bay window on the 1600 block of Latimer Street. Taking the history of photography as its conceptual foundation, the window itself becomes both a picture frame to look through and a lens onto the world.



Cecilia Paredes, *Eve II*, 2018, inkjet print

Initially launched in 2020 as a monthly series of installations, it was lauded as a safe and thoughtful way to access art during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has since become an essential platform for The Print Center to introduce artwork into the public sphere. The Print Center is pleased to share these exceptional works with those who walk, run, bike, skate, or drive by.

Previous iterations of “Windows on Latimer” have presented artwork by James B. Abbott, Jaime Alvarez, Edna Andrade, Roxana Azar, Lisa Blas, Kevin Claiborne, Asuka Goto, David Graham, Naomieh Jovin, Dawn Kim, Bella Logachova, Alexis Nutini, Ted Partin, Hannah Price, David Rothenberg, Krista Svalbonas, Shawn Theodore and former University of the Arts students: Kelly Buruca, Isabella Kahn, Maria Kortz, Brittney Mallon, Alex Stevenson and Brielle Walton.

The Print Center would like to thank the artists for their participation and collaboration, with additional thanks to James B. Abbott for conceiving the series and his services as Master Printer.

About the Artist

Globally recognized, Philadelphia-based Peruvian artist **Cecilia Paredes** (born 1950) attended the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru in Lima, Cambridge School of Art in England, and the Scuola Libera del Nudo of the Academy of Fine Art in Rome. She has an extensive exhibition record with solo shows in the United States at ArtYard, Frenchtown, NJ, and the Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach, CA, as well as abroad, including Museo de Osma, Lima, Peru; Museum of Navarra, Pamplona and Museum of Art, University of Salamanca, both Spain; and the Costa Rica Museum of Art, San José, among others. She participated in the 2015 Havana Biennale; the 2007 Bienal of Architecture and Art, the Canary Islands; and was featured in the Latin American Pavilion of the 51st Venice Biennale in 2005. Her work is held by numerous international collections and American institutions, including the Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX; El Museo del Barrio, New York, NY; University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; and McNay Art Museum and San Antonio Museum of Art, both San Antonio, TX; among others. She is represented in the United States by Ruiz-Healy Art, New York and San Antonio.

All images courtesy of the Artist and Ruiz-Healy Art, New York and San Antonio.

About the Essayist

Joanna García Cherán (Purépecha) is a California-based art historian, writer and curator. She has a BA in history and Spanish literature from the University of California, Berkeley and an MA in art history from Williams College, Williamstown, MA. Her research focuses on contemporary art, photography, Indigenous sovereignty and visual culture. García Cherán’s writing has been published in *Artsy*, *First American Art* magazine, *Hyperallergic* and *Latina* magazine. She currently serves as the Capital Group Foundation Curatorial Fellow in Photography at the Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University, CA.

Programs

Gallery Talk & Opening Reception

Thursday, April 17

5:30pm Gallery Talk with the Artist and Lauren
Rosenblum, Jensen Bryan Curator
6 – 7:30pm Reception

Public Exhibition Tours

Wednesday, April 30, 12pm

Wednesday, May 28, 12pm

Friday, June 6, 5:30pm

Friday, July 18, 5:30pm

RSVP requested, but not required

Conversation with Paredes

Wednesday, May 28

6pm, presented in-person and on Zoom

All of The Print Center's exhibitions and programs are free and open to the public. For more information or to register for Zoom, visit printcenter.org.

About The Print Center

Mission

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 annual art competitions in the country, now in its 100th year, provides the Artists-in-Schools Program to Philadelphia public high school students and its Gallery Store offers a carefully selected array of contemporary prints and photographs onsite and online.

Funders

Support for The Print Center is offered by: Edna W. Andrade Fund; Children Can Shape the Future; Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation; Forman Family Fund; Sheila Fortune Foundation; Fund for Children; Allen Hilles Fund; IFPDA Foundation; William King Foundation; Phillip and Edith Leonian Foundation; Christopher Ludwick Foundation; William Penn Foundation; Pennsylvania Council on the Arts; Philadelphia Cultural Fund; Philadelphia Foundation; Rosenlund Family Foundation; Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial; and our Board of Governors, Luminaries, members and friends.

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Free and open to the public
Tuesday – Saturday, 11am – 6pm

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