

CALA ALLIANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Event Information:

Crossfade LAB with Teresita Fernández and San Cha
Wednesday, November 17, 2021 // 7:00–9:00 PM
Tickets \$17.50
Herberger Theater (222 E Monroe St, Phoenix, AZ 85004)

CALA ALLIANCE ANNOUNCES THE RETURN OF CROSSFADE LAB An Evening with Teresita Fernández and San Cha

Phoenix, AZ / July 6, 2021— CALA Alliance (Celebración Artística de las Américas) will host Crossfade LAB on **Wednesday, November 17, 2021**. Initially postponed due to the health crisis brought on by COVID-19, CALA is pleased to announce the return of Crossfade LAB with its ninth installment. The series promises a thought-provoking evening featuring conversations, art experiences, and unexpected collaborations with internationally renowned Indigenous, Latinx, and Latin American artists.

At the bottom of a DJ mixing console, there is a horizontal slider known as the crossfader. By toggling it left and right, you can carefully move between the music on one input channel and the music on the other without entirely fading out either. Crossfade Lab uses the crossfade as a metaphor for a kind of social thinking that celebrates in-betweenness and mixing without erasing. "Crossfading is not just about music but a new kind of social thinking and social action," explained co-curator and moderator Josh Kun. "Crossfading is about listening to the borders, the edges; crossfading is about refusing the myth that any of us are single inputs, refusing to believe the myth of closure."

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Named the 2019 *Best of Phoenix: Best Art Conversation*, Crossfade LAB returns on November 17, 2021, at Herberger Theater. This iteration features a special meeting between celebrated visual artist and MacArthur fellow Teresita Fernández and rising music and performance star San Cha. Moderated by author and Crossfade LAB co-curator Kun, the evening will experiment, agitate, and shimmer, blending installations and sculptures with cumbias and telenovelas—a mix of sound and image that will take you across geographies of the Americas, from Cuba to Jalisco, the Bay Area to Miami, New York to LA.

Since 2016, CALA has presented several Crossfade LAB events to sold-out audiences. Every event features a cross-disciplinary conversation, performance, and onstage collaboration between two artists working in the performing, visual, media, and literary arts. Crossfade LAB consistently features great crossfaders—artists looking for points of connection and intersection between different art forms, cultures, communities, and ways of being in the world. Since its inception, Crossfade LAB has featured the work of some of the most important Latinx and Latin American artists of our time, including visual artists Tania Candiani (Mexico City), rafa esparza (Los Angeles), and Carolina Caycedo (Colombia-Los Angeles); literary artists Natalie Diaz (Arizona Mojave; 2018 McArthur Fellow and 2021 Pulitzer Prize winner), Daniel Alarcón (Peruvian American), and Rita Indiana (Dominican Republic); performance artists Nao Bustamante (Los Angeles) and Radio Healer (Arizona); and musicians Julieta Venegas (Tijuana; Grammy Award winner), Carla Morrison (Tecate/Mexico City; Grammy Award winner), Helado Negro (Ecuador-NYC), Lido Pimienta (Colombia-Toronto), Javiera Mena (Chile), and Calexico (Arizona).

"After a long year and a half of not being able to gather in person, we are so pleased to host Crossfade LAB this year with two stellar artists in a hybrid fashion," said co-curator Alana Hernandez. "I am looking forward to offering the event in-person at the Herberger Theater. However, as we have seen over the past year, we are committed to building community virtually as well. For the first time, Crossfade LAB will also be live streamed with bilingual live captioning, allowing us to traverse physical, linguistic, and auditory barriers for a more accessible experience."

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Tickets will be sold online through Herberger Theater. For more information, please visit www.calaalliance.org.

Crossfade LAB is organized by CALA Alliance in collaboration with ASU Art Museum and Herberger Theater. Crossfade LAB is made possible with support from the Diane & Bruce Halle Foundation. This program is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

About the Artists

Teresita Fernández is a conceptual artist best known for her monumental public projects that expand on notions of landscape and place. Her work, often inspired by natural phenomena—meteor showers, fire, and the night sky—invites experiential engagement with the work and the space it occupies. Fernández places particular importance on her choice of materials such as gold, graphite, and other minerals that have loaded histories, often tied to colonialism, history, land, and power.

Her work is characterized by a quiet unraveling of place, visibility, and erasure that prompts an intimate experience for individual viewers. In 2015, Fernández installed her largest public art project to date, Fata Morgana, in Madison Square Park, New York. The work was composed of overhead, mirrored canopies above all the park's walkways, and its title refers to mirages that hover right above the horizon.

San Cha is a singer-songwriter based in Los Angeles, increasingly known for her visceral and explosive live performances. Her name, derived from the Spanish word *sancha*, which translates to "mistress," is a mischievous reference to the title of 'San,' given to male saints in the Catholic tradition. Fans of cumbia and punk, bolero and electro, flock to see San Cha's emotional renditions of traditional Mexican rancheras and original songs that queer conventions of identity, power, and love. Her striking stage presence is accompanied by the one-of-a-kind garments she adorns, aesthetic reflections of the years spent performing in drag and club scenes in the Bay.

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About the Curators

Josh Kun is Director of the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Southern California. He is Chair in Cross-Cultural Communication and Professor of Communication, Journalism, and American Studies and Ethnicity. A cultural historian, curator, journalist, and MacArthur Fellow, Kun writes and researches about music and the politics of cultural connection. He is the winner of an American Book Award (2005) and a Berlin Prize (2018). He is an author and editor of several books, anthologies, and artist monographs. As a curator of music and public humanities projects, he has worked with SFMOMA, The California African American Museum, The Grammy Museum, The Getty Foundation, and the Los Angeles Public Library. He co-edits the book series *Refiguring American Music* for Duke University Press.

Alana Hernandez is Executive Director & Curator of CALA Alliance (Celebración Artística de las Américas). As Executive Director, Hernandez fosters Latinx artistic talent in the Metro-Phoenix region and beyond while strengthening cultural ties to the Americas. Prior to her time at CALA, Hernandez was Assistant Curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego. She has held curatorial positions at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Páramo, Guadalajara, Mexico; Hunter East Harlem, New York; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Phoenix Art Museum; and BRIC Arts | Media, Brooklyn. Her writing has appeared in *MCASD.Digital* (2021), *HereIn Journal* (2020), the exhibition catalogues *John Rivas: Los Voces Inside of Me* (2020), *AtIpan: Claudia Peña Salinas* (2019), and *Traveler Artists: Landscapes of Latin America from the Patricia Phelps de Cisneros Collection* (2015). She is the organizer and contributor to the forthcoming *Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego: Handbook of the Collection* (2021) and the three-print volume, *Grove Encyclopedia of Latin American Art and Architecture*. Hernandez received her M.A. from CUNY Hunter College, specializing in Modern and Contemporary Latin American Art.

Julio César Morales is Senior Curator at the ASU Art Museum at Arizona State University. Employing various media and visual strategies, artist, educator, and curator Morales explores migration, underground economies, and labor on personal and global scales.

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Morales's artwork has been shown at Lyon Biennale (Lyon, France); Istanbul Biennale (Turkey); Los Angeles County Art Museum; Singapore Biennale; Frankfurter Kunstverein (Frankfurt, Germany); Prospect 3 (New Orleans, Louisiana) SFMOMA (San Francisco); Perez Art Museum (Miami, Florida); and The UCLA Hammer Museum (Los Angeles), amongst others. His work has been written about in *Flash Art*, *The New York Times*, *Artforum*, *Frieze*, *Art Nexus*, and *Art in America*. His work is in private and public collections, including MoMA, The Los Angeles County Art Museum, The Kadist Foundation, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, and Deutsche Bank. Morales was Adjunct Professor at The San Francisco Art Institute and Associate Professor in Curatorial Studies at The California College for the Arts. Morales is an advisor and writer for The San Francisco Quarterly Art Magazine; from 2008 to 2012, he was Adjunct Curator for Visual Arts at Yerba Buena Center for The Arts in San Francisco. Morales was a contributing curator for the Japanese pavilion at the 2013 Venice Biennale. He was awarded the Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant in 2020 and is represented by Gallery Wendi Norris.

About CALA Alliance

CALA Alliance (Celebración Artística de las Américas) is a multidisciplinary Latinx arts organization based in Phoenix that collaborates with artists and arts organizations to connect Arizona, Mexico, and Latin America. We advance our mission through innovative public programming, artist commissions, international residencies, and cultural exchanges that reimagine Arizona's place in the Americas. CALA envisions a cultural landscape that values the creative and artistic contributions of Latinxs and latinoamericanxs, and critically engages their stories in Arizona and throughout the Americas.

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