

# Montalvo Arts Center

## 2025 Annual Report

October 1, 2024–September 31, 2025

**stART**here®  
Montalvo Arts Center





**Montalvo's mission is to enrich the lives of all people through the arts.**

**stART here**<sup>®</sup>  
Montalvo Arts Center

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Natalie Wollmann



**Dear Friends of Montalvo,**

We are thrilled to report that through our 2025 fiscal year, we witnessed firsthand how Montalvo continues to thrive as a place where creativity, nature, and community converge. Our mission to **enrich the lives of all people through the arts** has never felt more vital—or more enduring.

For **thousands of students**, Montalvo opened doors to life-changing arts experiences. Their wide-eyed wonder reminds us why access matters. Our artists-in-residence found sanctuary in our Lucas Artists Residency Program, creating bold new work while receiving the dedicated hospitality and support that makes Montalvo unique. On our stages, **audiences** experienced performances and festivals they consistently tell us are unlike anywhere else: intimate, connecting, and deeply memorable.

Beyond our programs, **visitors** discovered Montalvo’s 175 acres as an oasis for the soul. Families picnicked under our trees, hikers explored our trails, and countless individuals found space to breathe amid the bustle of Silicon Valley. The birdsong, the gardens, the quiet... these are central to who we are and what we safeguard for the future.

As board and staff together, we take seriously our **shared responsibility** to steward this remarkable place—its land, its mission, and its financial health—so that Montalvo may continue to inspire artists, students, and visitors for generations to come. The strength of our programs is matched by the dedication of our staff and the thoughtful leadership of a deeply engaged board.

None of this work would be possible without you. Our **generous patrons** and **dedicated volunteers** make it possible to uphold our core value: ensuring everyone who comes to Montalvo knows they belong, they are valued, and they are welcome. Through countless hours of service and shared commitment, you help sustain an institution where art, nature, and humanity flourish together.

In the following pages, you will see firsthand how a **thriving arts center** gives back to its community today and well into the future. Thank you for your trust, your generosity, and your **partnership** in this extraordinary work, and for continuing this journey with us.



**With gratitude,**

Angela McConnell  
Executive Director

Roger Smullen  
President, Board of Trustees

# The Year at a Glance

**712,000**

organic online impressions  
from across the globe

**500,000**

people served  
at Montalvo

**21,000**

service hours volunteered  
by community members

**20,000**

Marcus Exhibition  
viewers

**2,580**

artist meals prepared  
by Montalvo's chef

**900**

songs sung in the  
Carriage House

**175**

acres of  
pure inspiration

**140**

artists in residence

**80**

school buses filled  
with eager students

**40**

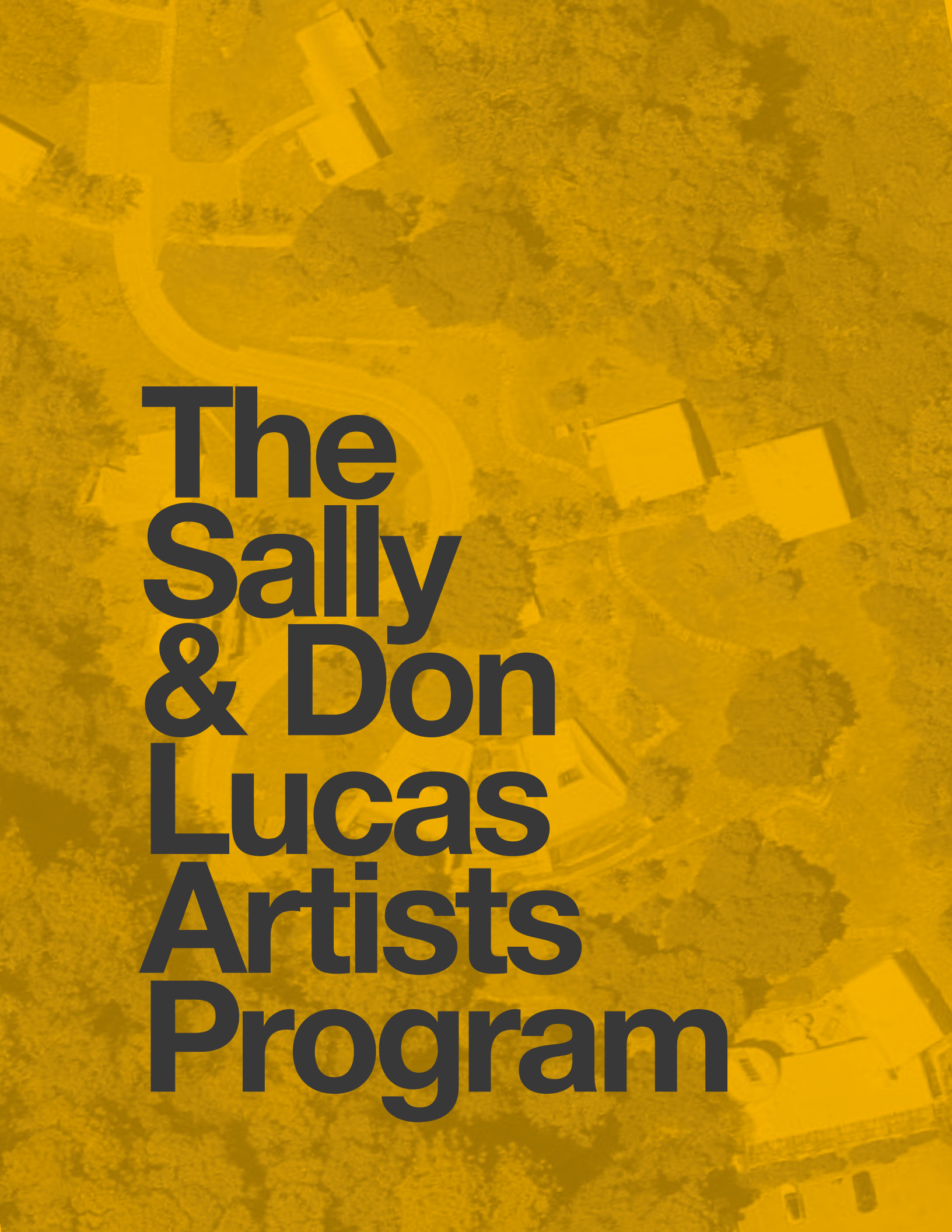
encores

**2**

free community festivals

**1**

Montalvo Arts Center



# The Sally & Don Lucas Artists Program

The Sally and Don Lucas Artists Residency Program (LAP) is a creative incubator and cultural producer dedicated to investing in artists and their work. We support visual artists, composers, writers, performers, scholars, and others from around the world to undertake critical investigations of contemporary issues, and to create and present new and experimental works.

Established in 1939, Montalvo Arts Center is home to the third oldest residency program in the United States. In 2004, Montalvo recommitted to its support of artists and opened a new, state-of-the-art facility, relaunching as the Sally and Don Lucas Artists Residency Program. The residency is dedicated to providing artists with a flexible and expansive space in which to create, encouraging the creative process, risk taking, collaboration, and time to develop new work, while offering opportunities to share ideas and projects with other artists, as well as through public programming and partnerships.

# Artists in Residence 2024/2025

Artists are awarded three months in residence, which can be taken as one block of time, or in as little as 2 week increments over three years, allowing each fellow to customize their time to accommodate their own unique creative process. Residencies are offered in all contemporary artistic disciplines including the visual arts, design, literary arts, film and new media, choreography, performance art, music and composition, and social practice. The LAP also welcomes curators and teaching artists as well as artists' collaborators from overlapping fields, including science, technology, health care, planning, justice and activism, and other scholarly pursuits.



140 11 6

artists in residence

live/work studios

countries

Annie Albagli  
Erina Alejo  
Ghayath Almadhoun  
Patricia Alessandrini  
Jules Allen  
Kathy Aoki  
Michael Arcega  
Lisa Anne Auerbach  
David Benoit  
AJ Bermudez  
Ashwini Bhat  
Arlene Biala  
Suchi Branfman  
Dancing Through Prison Walls  
Rashayla Brown  
Alexa Burrell  
Nao Bustamante  
Elizabeth Carter  
Cassils  
Melanie Charles  
Luciano Chessa

Beatriz Cortez  
Modesto Covarrubias  
Sally Decker  
Stanley Delgado  
Mark de Clive-Lowe  
Heather Dundas  
Reanne Estrada  
Melecio Estrella  
Niki Ford  
Leslie Foster  
Lara Gallagher  
Jesse Gilbert  
Brendan Glasson  
deVon Gray  
Lemon Guo  
Michele Guieu  
Annie Han  
Gretchen Henderson  
Jamil Hellu  
Allison Leigh Holt  
Garrett Hongo

Imani Jackson  
Jen Siraganian  
Kevan Jenson  
Jennifer Johns  
Leena Joshi  
Fidel Kilic  
Pantea Karimi  
Hirokazu Kosaka  
Beth Krebs  
Leif Larson  
Lauren Adams  
Julie Lazar  
Rudy Lemcke  
dani lopez  
Linda Lopez  
Daiane Lopes de Silva  
Kija Lucas  
Juan Luna-Avin  
Mama Bear  
Jane Marchant  
Diana Markessinis

Rebeca Mendez  
Daniel Mihalyo  
Tomas Moniz  
Maria Jose Montijo  
Damian Norfleet  
Jenny Odell  
Oguri  
Namita Paul  
Viviana Paredes  
Rebecca Peabody  
Pedra Pepa  
Genevieve Quick  
Felix Quintana  
Leonard Reidelbach  
Yosimar Reyes  
Annabeth Rosen  
Sruti Sarathy  
Erik Scollon  
Sophia Shen  
Edward Simon  
Ginny Sims

Valerie Soe  
Grant Speich  
TT Takemoto  
Nancy Wang  
Waeli Wang  
Margeaux Walter  
Lyzette Wanzer  
Mark Winges  
Marco Wilkinson  
Jenifer Wofford  
Shelley Wong  
Kristina Wong  
Theresa Wong  
Andre Woodward  
Weidong Yang  
Carolyn Yarnell  
Kim Yasuda  
Bruce Yonemoto  
Rashid Zakat  
Minoosh Zamorodinia  
Stella Zhang

# Around the Table

At the heart of artists' experience at the Lucas Artists Programs is the time spent around the table—artists and friends gathering together over artisanal meals created by LAP Chef Jose Ortiz.

**2,500**  
people served



**215**

meals prepared for the artist table by Chef Jose

**52**

impromptu artist gatherings

## Open Access

is the signature program presented by the LAP, offering a behind-the-scenes view into how artists generate ideas, showcase works-in-progress and fully realized new work, and provide a forum for critical conversations.

**7** public programs

**335**  
attendees

24.10.17 / Future Dreaming Culminating Celebration | Beatriz Cortez

25.01.22 / Cultivating the Creative Life: Who Am I Now? | Salt & Poetry\*

25.02.27 / I Am Arte: A Ritual En Love | Jennifer Johns

25.03.27 / When We Are Seen | Denise Young\*

25.04.17 / Hello Goodbye Hello: Artists Residencies and How They Support the Creative Economy | LAP Staff Past & Present\*

25.08.28 / Past Present (Tone Poems Across Time) | Mark de Clive-Lowe

25.09.26 / My Neighbor Sky | Oguri

\*in partnership with Montalvo's Outreach & Education Program

# seeing both sides



In the spring of 2025, Montalvo acquired **seeing both sides** by **Woody De Othello** as part of its permanent collection.

*seeing both sides* explores the idea of balance, what exists at the intersection of choice, and how we can be in tune with change. After conceiving a figure that embodies these concepts, Othello constructed a small clay model (or maquette) for the larger-than-life bronze sculpture, a critical step in developing a final composition that required great delicacy in the sizing, placement, and orientation of the figure's head and limbs.

Othello created *seeing both sides* with a specific axis of directionality in mind—the intersection of divinity and humanity.

He was inspired by other objects with an axis: compasses, crosses and sundials. He also drew from Dogon cosmology and beliefs which emphasize that our bodies are vessels and containers for spirituality, alignment, and balance. Dogon, an ethnic group native to the central plateau region of Mali, West Africa, believe in complementary opposites, and the connection between earth, the stars, and the planets.

Within this cosmology, the horizontal axis represents the realm of earth, a plane of reality, existence, and societal expectations. The vertical axis is a direct line to our higher self and the energy that propels us into the future. Within the figure of *seeing both sides*, both realms coexist and move in dialogue with each other.

The acquisition of this work was made possible through the generous contributions of the **Lipman Family Foundation**. *seeing both sides* is located under the bunya pine on the Great Lawn.



## Woody De Othello

Woody De Othello holds an MFA from the California College of the Arts, San Francisco and BFA from Florida Atlantic University. His work is in the permanent collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art; SFMOMA; de Young Museum, San Francisco; Seattle Art Museum; LACMA, Los Angeles; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; MAXXI National Museum of 21st Century Art, Rome, Italy, and many more. Othello's work was included in the 2022 Whitney Biennial. Large-scale public art commissions include San Francisco International Airport; de Young, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco; and Cityline, Sunnyvale. Othello lives and works in Oakland, CA. He is represented by Jessica Silverman and Karma.

# A Place for Meeting Strangers



The **Marcus Commissioning Prize** is an award of \$40,000 established through a gift from the George and Judy Marcus Family Foundation. Each year, the Marcus Prize is given to an artist or collective whose project serves to engage the public to address Montalvo's current curatorial themes.

Recipient of the Marcus Commissioning Prize, **Nathan Lynch's *A Place for Meeting Strangers*** is both a functional sculpture (a drinking fountain) and a social prompt. It invites two people to look each other in the eye and drink together, spurring a charmingly awkward moment of public intimacy and connection. In an era saturated with discord, distortion, and division, it becomes a starting place for community conversations.

A throughline in Nathan's work is the significance of location. His sculptures transform the spaces in which they reside, inviting viewers to engage with their surroundings in new and unexpected ways. Lynch's interest in the impact of physical space and his acute sense of situational irony is informed by the contradictory environment in which he was raised. As a youth, he lived in an agricultural community located in the shadow of a nuclear power plant—a stunning contrast between rural life and the encroaching industrial world. He also periodically visited the grounds of Montalvo, a place that brings back happy memories of summers spent with his grandparents.

The sensuous, swelling shape of the fountain heightens the surreality of sharing a physical space, embodying an often-elusive truth: strangeness brings strangers together. This work is located in the Gratitude Circle, on the left-hand side of the road, just past Parking Lot 1.



Nathan Lynch

was raised in Pasco, Washington, an agricultural community in the shadow of Hanford Nuclear Power Plant. This contradictory environment gave Lynch an acute sense of location and deep appreciation for irony. His concerns for political conflict and environmental upheaval are filtered through notions of absurdity, hand fabrication, and the dramatic devices of storytelling.

As a sculptor, designer and performance artist, Lynch has made collaboration and experimentation major components of his practice. At the University of Southern California, Lynch studied with Ken Price, and later earned an MFA at Mills College with Ron Nagle. Lynch is an Assistant Professor of Art at California College of the Arts. He is represented by Morgan Trumbell Projects.

# 2025 Marcus Exhibition

# *When the World is Beautifully Strange*

"What if we are each beautiful, even if we are strange? In this moment, when the world is chaotic, when the truth is distorted, and we face policies that seek to divide and diminish us, we need art more than ever. In this exhibition, twelve contemporary artists who sculpt with clay—stretching the properties of this earth-bound medium to create fearless new forms—intentionally draw us into their worlds with humor, play, and even strange motifs.

The influence of the West Coast/Bay Area clay movement of the 1960's and 1970's known as "Funk ceramics" can be seen in the works presented in our gallery and throughout Montalvo's grounds. What is "Funk"? It's a term used in visual art and music but hard to pin down... you know it when you see it, with a vibe that is instantly recognizable. Curator Angelik Vizcarrondo-Laboy describes Funk artists as those who use strategies of humor, irony, irreverence, and cuteness as a means for expressing personal and political narratives.

The strangeness of these artworks at first glance charms. If we are open and curious, it can transport us to other places limited only by our imaginations. We hope you are encouraged to imagine a world in which we are each beautiful in our own individual and unique ways."

— CURATORIAL STATEMENT, *WHEN THE WORLD IS BEAUTIFULLY STRANGE*

## ON VIEW

June 26 – November 9, 2025

## VENUE

Montalvo gardens and grounds  
Cottage Gallery (indoor)

## FEATURED ARTISTS

Ashwini Bhat, Kristiana Chan, Elisa D'Arrigo, Niki Ford, Linda Nguyen Lopez, Cathy Lu, Nathan Lynch, Timna Naim, Woody De Othello, Annabeth Rosen, Linda Sormin, and Wanxin Zhang

## CURATORS

Kelly Sicat, Director of the Lucas Artists Program at Montalvo  
Judy Koong Dennis, Assistant Curator and Program Manager





**20,000**  
exhibition visitors

**1,891**  
Cottage Gallery visitors

**22** artworks  
**92** hours spent cleaning artwork

**12** artists  
**11** group tours



# Montalvo Funk!

The Marcus Festival is a free annual celebration taking place the third Friday of July, centered around the summer exhibition. This festival bolsters Montalvo's commitment to keeping accessibility and belonging at the heart of its program design, while providing a critical platform for dialogue around issues of the day through a lens of contemporary art.

Montalvo Funk playfully intermingled "funk" ceramics, originating in the 1960s west coast, with the beloved music genre for an evening of hands-on artmaking, DJs, dancing, and interactive performance. Local partnerships included San Jose Jazz, Universal Grammar, and Palo Alto Arts Center.

## DATE

July 18, 2025 • 6-10pm

## FEATURING

*When the World is Beautifully Strange*, 2025 Marcus Exhibition

Tommy Aguilar of Universal Grammar and guests

Ashwini Bhat, *Earth Under Our Feet*

1,500

festival attendees

9

vendors

5

DJs

3

local partners



# Selection: Music & Composition

25 musician/composers of exceptional talent from across the U.S. and the world were awarded a three-month fellowship in Montalvo's Lucas Artists Residency Program.

This distinguished group includes individuals working in all genres of music including classical, jazz, folk, hip-hop, electronic, experimental, and sound art. These Fellows were born or reside in the following countries: the United States and Puerto Rico, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands, South Korea, and Syria.

## 2024 Music and Composition Fellows

Paulina Astorga Monteón

Josiah Tayag Catalan

Melanie Charles

Sally Decker &  
Brendan Glasson

Esotérica Tropical

Sabine Ercklentz

Marcus Fischer

Alexandra Gardner

Asma Ghanem

Brian Hargrove

Carmen Jaci

Leilehua Lanzilotti

Ana Lara

Ingrid Laubrock

Briana Marela Lizárraga

Soo Yeon Lyuh

akua naru

Damian Norfleet

Stefano Pilia

Samora Pinderhughes

Igor Santos

Ziaire Trinidad Sherman

James Allister Sprang

Kalia Vandever

LJ White

# Marcus Curatorial Fellows 2024-25

Established with a generous gift made by the George and Judy Marcus Family Foundation, this fellowship provides emerging Bay Area thought leaders who are interested in pursuing a career in the arts with the opportunity to work with living artists of all disciplines, and to create and develop public programs.



## Olivia Esparza

brings a unique perspective to her work, shaped by a childhood steeped in creative environments. Growing up surrounded by artistic expression and event production, she gained rare early access to diverse creative worlds. A native of San Jose, she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design from Whittier College in 2023.

Olivia's creative journey reached new heights when she secured first place in the 2023 Coffee Design & Marketing Competition, with her winning design now available for purchase. Recently, she further developed her talents as an interactive graphic designer during her internship at Sephora. This formative exposure to the arts from a young age, combined with her academic training and professional experiences, has cultivated her distinctive vision and approach.

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## Clara Kamunde



is an Oakland-based, Kenyan-born cultural worker practicing at the intersection of arts education and social justice. Her career began with the Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles where, as a grantee for the Artist-In-The-Community program, she collaborated with community organizations to produce and present site-integrated programming in urban parks, recreation areas and historic sites, and schools located in underserved communities

throughout Greater Los Angeles. For her contribution in supporting access to quality arts programming with DCA, she was awarded an Honorary Citation by the City of Los Angeles. Clara is an arts integration specialist, museum educator, and professional storyteller. She was formerly a fellow at the International Center for Studies in Creativity at Buffalo State University where she earned a master's degree in Creativity Studies.

## PROJECT

# *From Their Hands To Ours*

Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana (MACLA) and Montalvo Arts Center jointly presented *From Their Hands to Ours*, on view December 5, 2025 through March 8, 2026. This exhibition was co-curated by MACLA's Visual Arts Curator, Alyssarhaye Graciano, and Montalvo's Marcus Curatorial Fellow, Olivia Esparza.

*From Their Hands to Ours* invited visitors to explore the deep and persistent connections between childhood experiences and creative expression. Featuring the work of Estefanía Ajcjp, Miguel Arzabe, rafa esparza, Edra Soto, and Arleene Correa Valencia, the exhibition honored narratives embedded in our early lives, showcasing how knowledge, stories, and traditions passed down by parents, elders, and ancestors are reflected in the artworks. These inherited stories shaped the artists' identities and influenced how they navigate the world, from the intimacy of personal relationships to the broader political climate.



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## PROJECT

# *You Can't Eat Art*

*You Can't Eat Art* is a provocative podcast series addressing the age-old question: What's the value of art? Inspired by a skeptic who claimed that art serves no practical purpose, host Clara Kamunde, Marcus Curatorial Fellow, sits down with artists at the Lucas Artists Program to explore the impact of making art.

In this monthly series, Clara invites you to listen in as she engages in candid conversations with working artists representing a diverse range of disciplines about their practice, their purpose, and their response to those who see art as merely a luxury and question its value. Her conversations offer insights into how artists navigate the commodification of their work, and shed light on their creative processes.

Ultimately, *You Can't Eat Art* seeks to reaffirm art's role as an indispensable cultural force, one that fosters connection, introspection, and growth. *You Can't Eat Art* challenges the reductive notion of art as a commodity, and invites listeners to reconsider how art can challenge, resist, redefine and shape society.



A teal-tinted photograph of a lecture hall. A speaker is visible on a stage at the front of the room, addressing an audience seated in rows of chairs. The room features a drop ceiling with recessed lighting and a projector screen. The overall atmosphere is professional and educational.

# Outreach & Education

Montalvo Arts Center serves as a hub for arts and culture in the community, sparking necessary conversations and inspiring creativity. Our arts education programs grow out of an institutional commitment to providing quality learning experiences for all ages and skill levels in a range of artistic disciplines. Leveraging our stunning grounds, on-site learning spaces, and community partners, we offer fun and accessible experiences that celebrate the creative spirit, engage the imagination, and develop the artist in all of us.

# Performing Arts Series for Students

Serving transitional kindergarten through Grade 8, Montalvo's Performing Arts Series for Students invites Bay Area youth to experience the energy of live performance—from dance, music, and theatre to puppetry and poetry. For many of our young audience members, this is their first exposure to live performing arts.

These shows, featuring performances by world-class artists, are an excellent exposure to the arts for elementary school-aged students and a perfect launching point for classroom and homeschool curriculum. This series is curated to include performances examining timely social themes through an integrated learning lens and giving a platform to diverse cultural perspectives with links to California Arts Standards and the California Arts Education Framework.

## 2024-25 Season

- Sewam American Indian Dance
- TheaterWorks USA presents *DOT DOT DOT*
- The Fratello Marionettes presents *Peter and the Wolf*
- SoVoSó: *One Planet, One World, One People*
- New Ballet of San Jose
- Mosaic America Spring Celebration of Life
- Deaf Louder with Urban Jazz Dance Company\*
- Silicon Valley Shakespeare presents *Shakes30: A Midsummer Night's Dream*

\*included American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters



Cynthia Taylor

“

Montalvo does a great job supporting our educational goals by providing field trip opportunities at free or reduced cost. We are thankful for our ability to work with you and expose our students to things they would never have had the opportunity to learn about otherwise.

**CASTLEMONT ELEMENTARY TEACHER**

# 35,674

dollars awarded in  
ticket & bus subsidies

# 4,654

students

# 1,900

Title I  
students



**52**  
homeschool  
educators

**169**  
teachers

**80**  
school  
buses

**50**  
performing  
artists

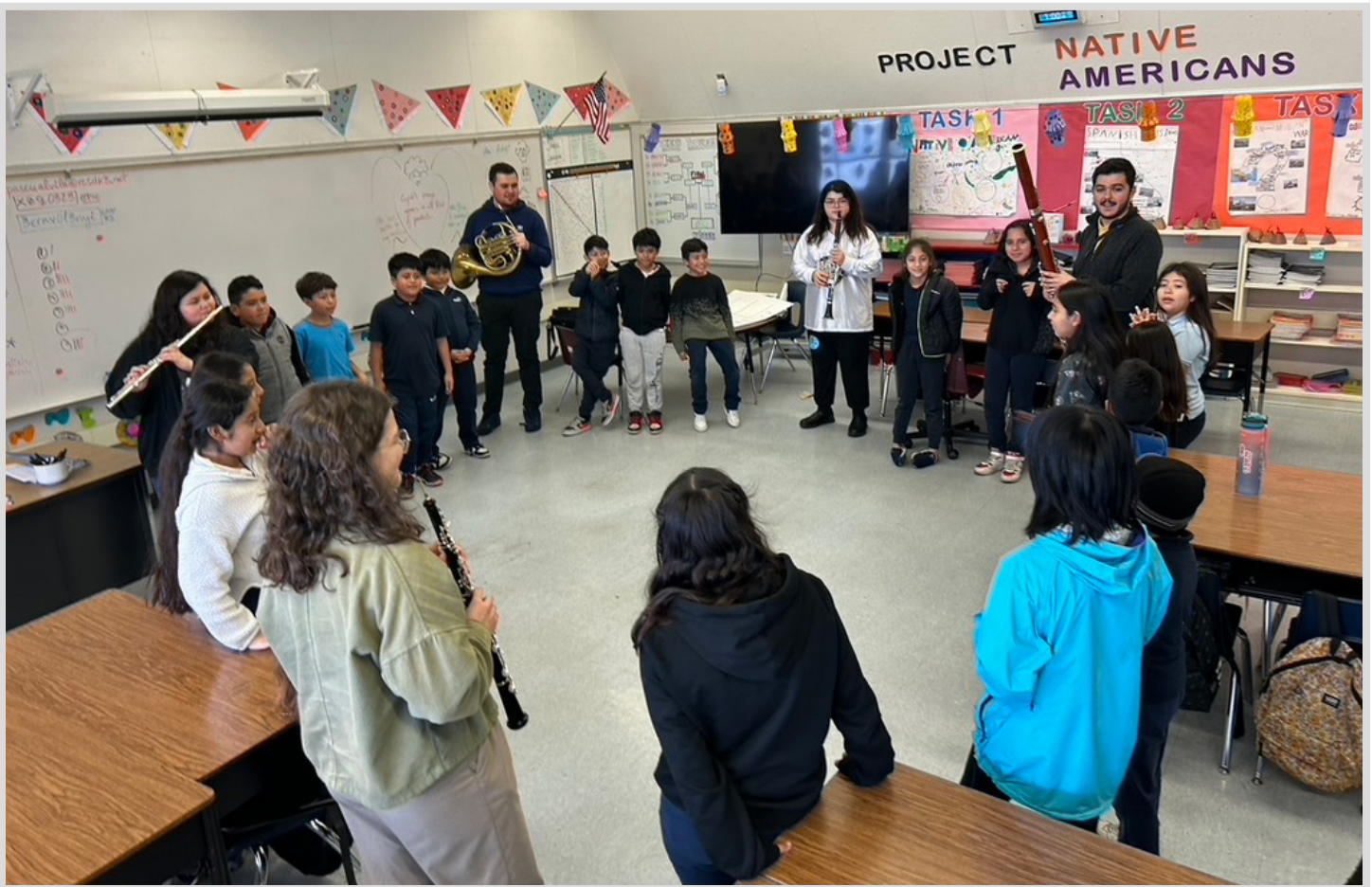
# Bilingual Music + Innovation Partnership

Montalvo Arts Center launched a Music and Innovation partnership with **Campbell Union School District** to provide their 6th grade classes with onsite and in-classroom bilingual (English/Spanish) learning experiences.

As part of a comprehensive field trip program, 6th grade students from Rolling Hills Middle School, Monroe Middle School, Campbell School of Innovation, and Sherman Oaks Community Charter School engaged with *A Path Forward: Honoring Ohlone Land*

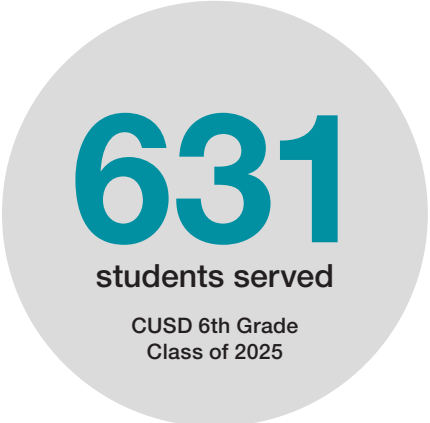
*& Spirit*, a living land acknowledgment featuring an augmented reality (AR) experience created to honor Ohlone lands through shared ancestral wisdom and elevating local Ohlone voices. Through an art- and nature-based curriculum including student/teacher conversations, field journaling, and a live performance by the **Calpulli Tonalehqueh Aztec** dancers, students learned more about indigenous knowledge and identity while cultivating a sense of belonging at Montalvo Arts Center.





In the classroom, Montalvo partnered with **Quinteto Latino**, a wind chamber quintet dedicated to showcasing Latino compositions and engaging diverse communities through music, to create an in-school residency that focused on building community among the 6th grade cohort through a collaborative music project that focused on the identity and values of the students and the communities

of which they are a part. Quinteto Latino's residency centered around bilingual teaching artistry, an inclusive teaching style, and a focus on emergent curriculum, where the active participation and interests of the students help shape the learning process into one that is responsive and collaborative.



An additional **405 Santa Clara County students** (Grades 2-8) were served through field trips outside of CUSD.

# The 23rd Annual Arts In Your Classroom

Serving educators and academic professionals with free registration, the Arts In Your Classroom (AIYC) all-day conference focuses on a relevant theme each year. During the conference, educators learn from diverse and distinguished speakers and individual session presenters who will cover key concepts and best practices, share tools and resources, and lead thoughtful discussions. The conference provides opportunities to practice activities that educators can implement in classrooms to cultivate critical and creative thinking.

## 2025: Neurodiversity—Fostering Inclusion

This annual arts-integration teacher conference provided educators with a deeper understanding of how incorporating arts integration strategies and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) supports the neurodiversity of all learners. Applying UDL principles assures that all learners can access and participate in meaningful learning opportunities. UDL centers learners' identities, emphasizing the

role of belonging in teaching and learning. Workshop sessions provided K-8 educators with skills, tools, and knowledge to carry out practical, standards-based techniques, approaches, and activities that were designed to bring creativity and joy to teaching and enhance student learning. Registration fees were underwritten by a generous grant from SV Creates.

100%

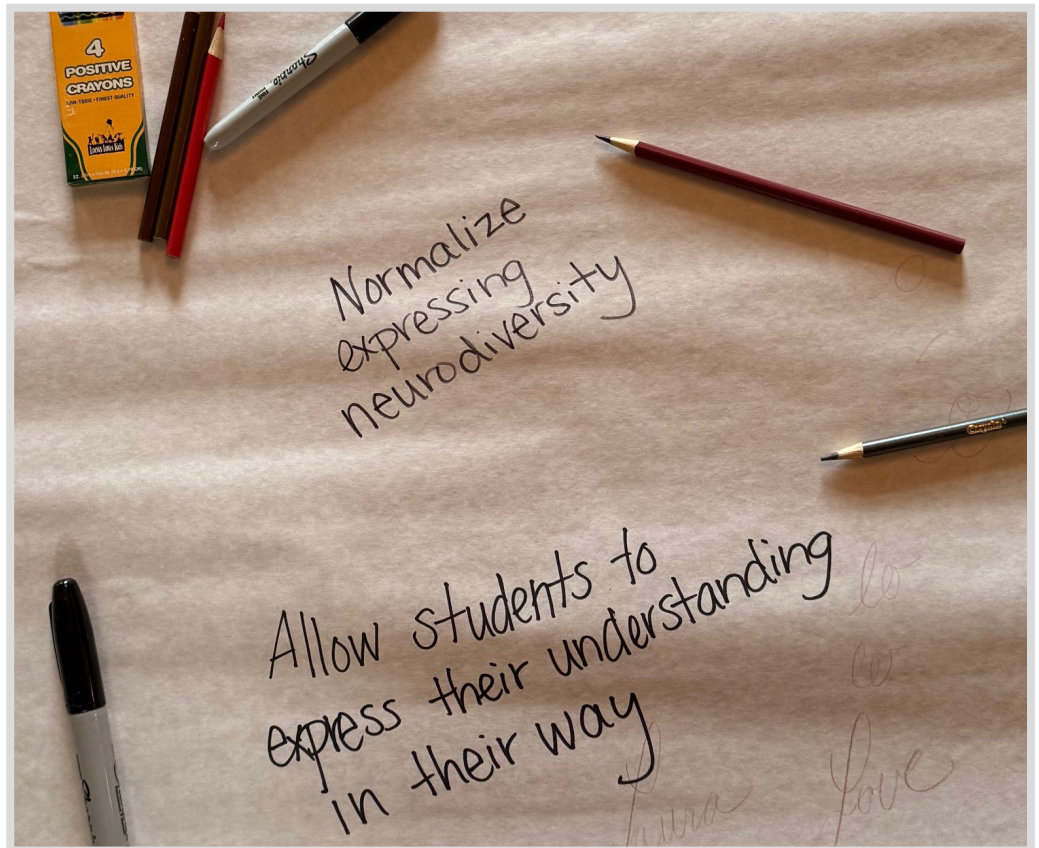
free registration

2

keynote speakers

3

hands-on workshops



44

schools & institutions supported

110

teachers & educators

+

40

community partners & members

=

150

participants served

At an average of 30 per classroom, AIYC impacts more than **3,000 students**.



**Nicole Kim**, Executive Director of the College of Adaptive Arts at West Valley College; *Leadership Keynote—The Canvas of Inclusion: How UDL and the ARTS Instructional Model© Transform Education*

**Ryan Neale**, Founder of Neurodivergent Youth Empowerment Fund and UCLA student; *Inspiration Keynote—Sparking the Neurodivergent Hero's Journey*



Photos: Natalie Wollmann

# Multi-Generation Arts Education



**74 registrants** engaged in adult Arts Education classes

- Wild-Foraged Wreath Making Workshop (Nov)
- Wild-Foraged Wreath Making Workshop (Dec)
- Spring Creekside Ceramics Series
- Summer Creekside Ceramics Series



Over **1000 people** engaged *off-the-hill*:

- Saratoga Village First Thursdays (May–Sep 2025)
- Saratoga Blossom Festival (Spring 2025)

**Record enrollment** in Art + Nature-focused Summer Camps

- Visual arts
- Performing arts/music and musical theatre
- Mixed media
- Fort design/engineering building skills
- Culinary arts
- Textile arts/upcycled fashion design basics
- Natural sciences: California native plants & animals; hiking
- Indigenous knowledge: *A Path Forward: Honoring Ohlone Land & Spirit*
- Team and community building



# 2025 Summer Camps



**217**  
campers served

**7,950**  
in scholarship funds awarded

**44**  
teen volunteers



# Performing Arts

The performing arts are central to Montalvo's mission to enrich lives through the arts, bringing people together through shared, live experiences. From the thrill of live music to the raw emotion of theatre, our programs invite audiences to connect and engage with new ideas. Presented in the intimate Carriage House Theatre and across our campus, these performances are a powerful way for our community to come together while supporting artists and expanding access to high-quality cultural experiences for all.

# 2024-25 Carriage House Performing Arts Series



For more than 60 years, the intimate, indoor Claire Loftus Carriage House Theatre at Montalvo Arts Center has been a treasured venue for performing arts in Silicon Valley. A unique and acoustically balanced space, the Carriage House Theatre showcases world-class talent in music, comedy, and more.

- 48th SF Stand-up Comedy Competition Semi-finals
- Vienna Teng
- Damn Tall Buildings
- John Hiatt
- "Bette Davis Ain't for Sissies"
- International String Masters (California Guitar Trio/The String Revolution)
- Marc Broussard
- Marc Cohn
- Karla Bonoff
- Irish Christmas in America
- Livingston Taylor & Loudon Wainwright III
- David Benoit Christmas Tribute to Charlie Brown
- New Orleans Songbook: A Jazz at Lincoln Center Presents Production
- Charo
- Selected Shorts
- Keola Beamer & Jeff Peterson
- Brubeck Brothers Quartet
- Best of The SF Comedy Competition Starring Laurie Kilmartin
- The Ultimate Queen Celebration: The World's Premiere Tribute To Queen
- Matt Dusk Sings Tony Bennett
- BoDeans
- Forever Simon & Garfunkel: A Tribute
- International Guitar Night
- Delfeayo Marsalis & The Uptown Jazz Orchestra
- Goitse
- Ladies of Laughter
- You've Got a Friend: Music of the Brill Building
- Letters Aloud: "Thanks, But No Thanks"
- Billy McGuigan's Pop Rock Orchestra
- Pasquale Esposito
- Second City: 65th Anniversary Show
- Stelia Cole
- Kathak & All That Jazz: A Dancer's Journey through Lavani, Kathak, and Flamenco
- Gunhild Carling
- Mariachi Herencia de Mexico



8,809

audience members

900

songs performed

418

mics set up

316

seats

40

encores

36

concerts

18

piano tunings



# Play on the Grounds

Every summer, Montalvo presents a series of outdoor staged readings that bring theatrical plays to life in its intimate, open-air setting.

Free from traditional sets and costumes, these performances highlight the essence of theatre—where actors and text take center stage. Set against the natural beauty of our grounds, the experience is both immediate and immersive, offering audiences a glimpse into a unique stage of the creative process. It has quickly become a favorite among audiences, celebrated for its simplicity and creativity.



## 2025 Season



### Motherhood Out Loud

**Written by** Leslie Ayvazian, Brooke Berman, David Cale, Jessica Goldberg, Beth Henley, Lameece Issaq, Claire LaZebnik, Lisa Loomer, Michele Lowe, Marco Pennette, Theresa Rebeck, Luanne Rice, Annie Weisman and Cheryl L. West

**Directed by** Katie O'Bryon Champlin



### God of Carnage

**Written by** Yasmina Reza  
**Translated by** Christopher Hampton

**Directed by** Ken Sonkin



### Bakersfield Mist / Backfire

**Written by** Stephen Sachs (*Bakersfield Mist*)  
David Lee White (*Backfire*)

**Directed by** Linda Piccone

# Villa Chamber Music Series



The Saint Michael Trio are considered California's premiere piano trio and Silicon Valley's update to the classical music scene. In the Bay Area and beyond, they perform in packed auditoriums and receive special praise for making their concerts interesting, accessible, and oftentimes funny. Their varied discography inspires ongoing accolades in the national press.

Established in 2007, the Trio's founding members are Daniel Cher (violin), Michel Flexer (cello), and Russell Hancock (piano). In 2018, the Trio added Robin Sharp (violin)—and since 2023, the Trio has also been known as "Saint Mike and Friends," enabling performances of quartets, quintets and beyond.

## 2025 Spring Season

- Schumann Dissected
- A Romp Then to Now
- Claude Debussy: France's Master Impressionist

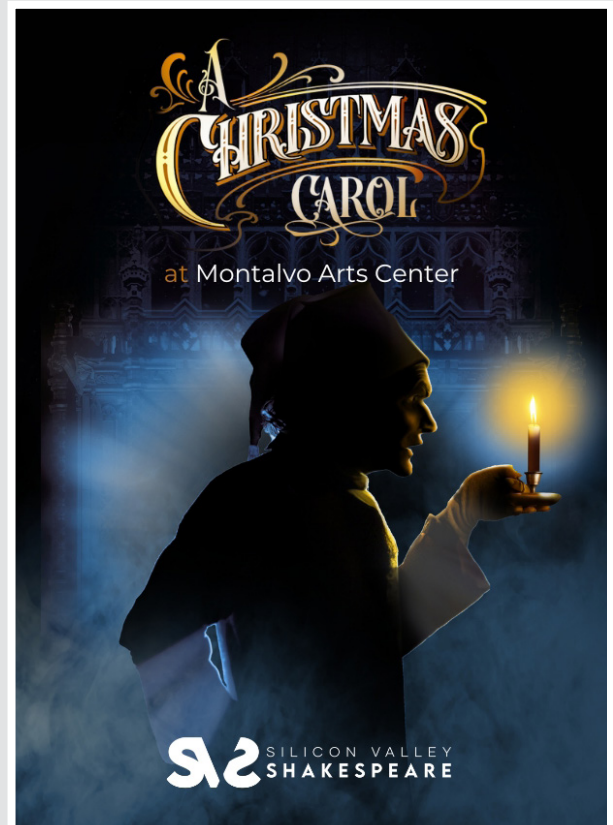
# A Christmas Carol

Since 2023, Silicon Valley Shakespeare and Montalvo Arts Center have partnered together to bring the classic Christmas tale by Charles Dickens uniquely to life.

Adapted by the late Richard Orlando (Northside Theatre Company founder and Artistic Director), this extraordinary production takes audiences on a journey—figuratively, and literally—with Ebenezer Scrooge as he travels the grounds of Montalvo through his past, present, and future.

In this holiday tradition, audiences traipse through the corridors of the historic Villa, explore the elegant courtyards, and roam pathways featuring stunning vistas as the story unfolds before them.

**2025 Production Directed by** Angie Higgins and Doll Piccotto.





# Celebrations

# A Place to Gather

There are so many milestones to celebrate in life, and we are so fortunate that people choose to gather at Montalvo to mark those moments. From fairytale fusion weddings to birthdays, anniversaries, and celebrations of life, every occasion is enriched by the beauty of our historic estate and gardens. Our dedicated team works closely with each host to create meaningful, personalized experiences, ensuring that every gathering—joyful or reflective—is thoughtfully supported and truly unforgettable.

# 49

special events

# 33

weddings

# 12

social events

# 8

kinds of animals  
in attendance

# 4

celebrations  
of life



A photograph of a formal garden with a long, straight path lined with hedges and tall, slender trees, overlaid with a green tint and the text "Gardens & Grounds".

# Gardens & Grounds

Nestled in the foothills above Saratoga, Montalvo spans more than 100 acres of woodland trails, curated gardens, and open space—welcoming visitors year-round, free of charge.

Anchored by a 1912 Mediterranean Revival-style villa—listed on the National Register of Historic Places and California Register of Historical Resources—this heritage landscape requires thoughtful stewardship. From scenic hikes to the cypress-lined Italianate Garden, every space reflects our commitment to preservation, access, and beauty, ensuring these treasured grounds can welcome visitors for generations to come.

# Grounds for Inspiration

Open daily and free to the public, Montalvo's grounds offer a welcoming place for visitors of all ages to explore, unwind, and connect with nature. Formal gardens and expansive lawns make a beautiful backdrop for a picnic, a walk, or simply a quiet pause. A network of hiking trails winds through forested landscapes, leading to one-of-a-kind vantages like Lookout Point, where sweeping views of the Santa Clara Valley await.

In partnership with Santa Clara County Parks, which manages Montalvo's trails, these pathways are carefully maintained for public use. Whether visitors come for an active hike, to stroll in solitude, or just enjoy time outdoors, the grounds provide year-round access to nature—an essential community resource that supports well-being and restoration.



175

beautiful  
acres

2.5

miles  
of trails

1

Lookout  
Point

0

cost of  
admission



Jianing is a Montalvo member who has been coming to Montalvo for over 30 years. The last six have been with her beautiful dog Shasta by her side. Part of what inspired her to become a member was Shasta's love for the many hiking trails at Montalvo—in fact, Jianing says Montalvo is Shasta's favorite place!

In addition to being an avid hiker, Shasta is a therapy dog who visits schools, hospitals, and senior homes to dispense her special brand of comfort. Wave hi if you see this very good girl on the trails!



Robb Most

# The Love Temple

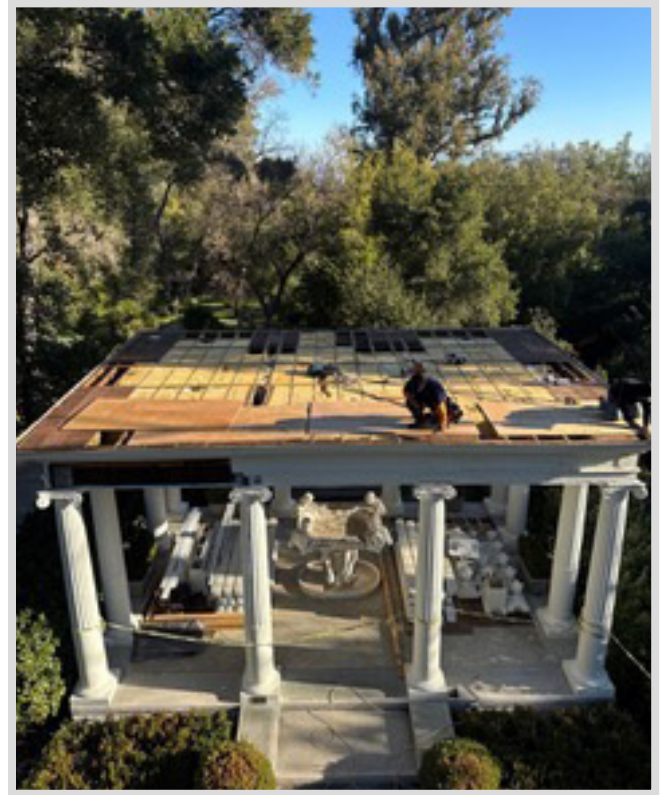
An iconic Montalvo structure original to the property, The Love Temple sits at the heart of the Italianate Garden—instantly recognizable by its ring of classical white columns and satyr-adorned marble fountain. The Temple is heavily subjected to the elements, so it wasn't surprising when evidence of the roof leaking was discovered... right?

What began as repairs to a leaking roof in late 2024 quickly snowballed when it became apparent the wooden framing under the roof was crumbling from prolonged water exposure—the wood was so soft, in fact, the surface couldn't even hold a nail and broke apart in your hand.

Due to the extent of the damage, the entire upper roof of the Love Temple needed to be rebuilt using new, pressure-treated wood. Gutting the Temple roof also allowed for critical improvements for water drainage to be made, including:

- Adding extra plywood to improve the slope of the roof
- Raising the decorative railing a few inches off the roof

After rainstorms added a delay of several weeks, restoration of the Love Temple roof was completed in 2025 Spring with a final coat of sparkling white paint, ready for a new season of celebrations (and many more to come).



**TIMELINE**  
October 2024  
to March 2025

**ESTIMATE**  
\$28,000

**FINAL COST**  
\$160,000



Each piece of the decorative roof railing had to be numbered for de- and re-installation



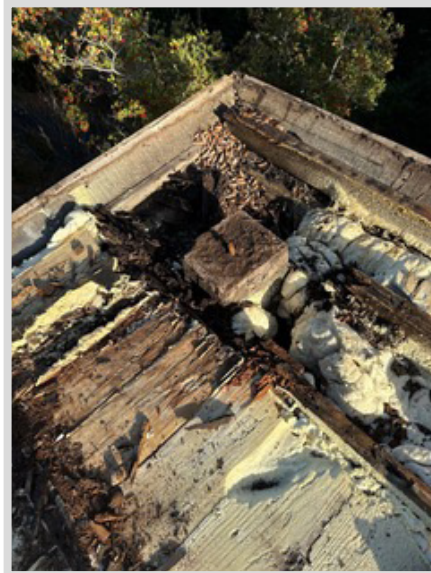
Wood crumbling from water damage



Inside the railing, untreated



Inside the railing, sealed and fixed



Stripping away the roof



Rebuilding the frame

# Charmaine's Garden Terrace



The sod on Charmaine's Garden Terrace required replacement due to heavy foot traffic and sustained wear (and... gophers). This area is a high-use space and an important source of earned revenue through public and private events, making a durable and safe lawn surface essential.



# Wildfire Safety

In 2024, we launched a major forest health initiative in partnership with CAL FIRE through the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP). This project focused on 13 acres throughout Montalvo that play a critical role in both wildfire resilience and long-term forest health, designed to reduce these risks while strengthening the ecological integrity of the property.

Over the course of the 2024 season, we implemented three coordinated forestry treatments:

## 1. Thinning & Release

- Removed dead, dying, and small-diameter trees
- Reduced competition for water and nutrients
- Improved growing conditions for established healthy trees

By thinning “from below,” we prioritized preserving mature canopy trees while removing understory congestion.

## 2. Pruning to Reduce Ladder Fuels

- Trimmed lower branches that could carry fire from the ground into the canopy
- Decreased the likelihood of high-intensity crown fires
- Improved vertical spacing between vegetation layers

## 3. Follow-Up Slash Processing

- Used mechanized equipment to process debris generated during thinning
- Reduced surface fuel accumulation
- Left the forest floor in a safer, more resilient condition

The project was completed efficiently and responsibly, with careful attention to both ecological balance and the stewardship of a historic landscape.

## TIMELINE & EXECUTION

### Project area:

13 acres

### Location:

Central property, south of the main Villa; above LAP studios

### Completion window:

60 days from start

### Implementation:

Professional forestry contractors

### Environmental compliance:

CEQA-cleared prior to ground operations



A fire brush masticator at work (heavy-duty mechanical tool designed to grind trees, brush, and woody vegetation into mulch)



Post-masticator treatment



# Support

Montalvo thrives because of a dedicated community who believe in the work of our artists, the importance of offering enriching arts education opportunities, and the need to preserve this stunning and historic 175-acre sanctuary. These dedicated supporters help ensure Montalvo remains a cultural treasure for generations to come.

### **\$100,000+**

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Bryan Zhang

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“

I give for  
the grounds,  
art, music,  
programs.

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“Always a great experience. As members we attended the pre-concert reception. We met some lovely people all of whom are fans of the artist. The concert hall is perfect in terms of comfort and sound.” — Steve M.

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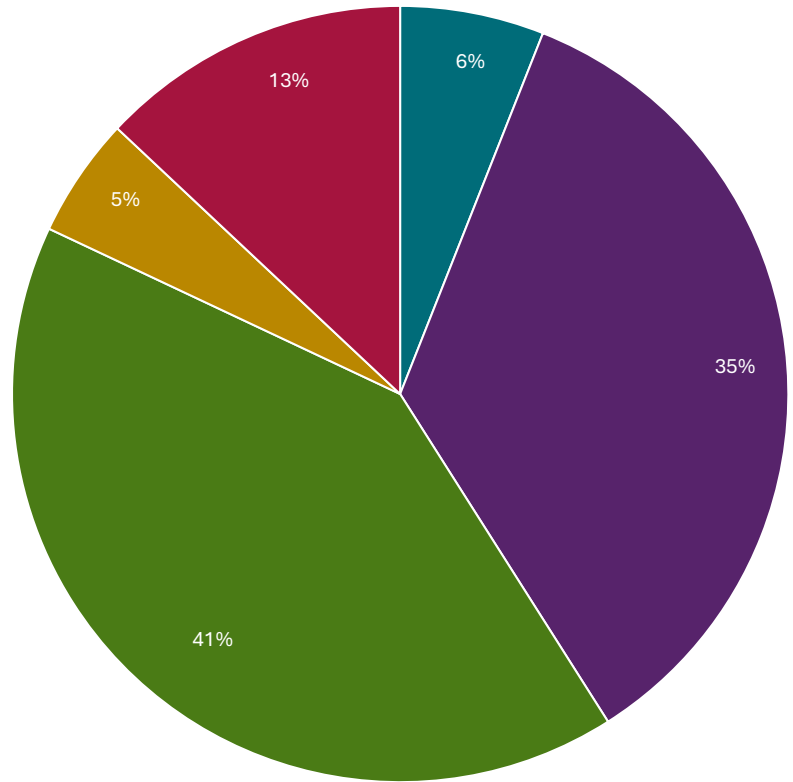


# Financial Report

Montalvo Arts Center is committed to transparency and responsible stewardship of the resources entrusted to us by our donors, members, and community partners. The following reflects our financial activity for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025. Our financial statements are audited annually by an independent certified public accounting firm; audited financials are available at [montalvoarts.org](http://montalvoarts.org).

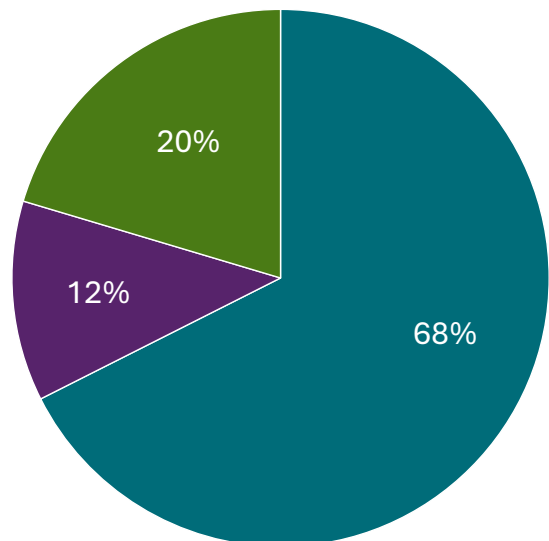
## OPERATING REVENUE

<span style="color: #008080;">■</span> Institutional Support Government, Corporate, Foundation	\$290,400
<span style="color: #660099;">■</span> Individuals	\$2,473,711
<span style="color: #669933;">■</span> Earned	\$2,896,008
<span style="color: #CC9933;">■</span> Marcus Artistic Reserve	\$324,735
<span style="color: #CC0033;">■</span> Endowment Draw	\$940,000
<hr/>	
TOTAL	\$7,017,774



## OPERATING EXPENSES

<span style="color: #008080;">■</span> Program Services	\$4,626,609
<span style="color: #660099;">■</span> Fundraising	\$825,273
<span style="color: #669933;">■</span> Administration	\$1,395,365
<hr/>	
TOTAL	\$6,847,247



**OPERATING SURPLUS**      \$170,527

# Artwork Checklist

## **Pg. 2**

Timna Naim (b. 1995)  
*Creation Playground*, 2025  
Glazed ceramic  
Dimension varies  
Courtesy of the artist  
Photo: Natalie Wollmann

## **Pg. 5**

Wanxin Zhang (b. 1961)  
*Shout (I am a California artist, too)*, 2013  
High-fired clay with glaze  
36 x 22 x 18 in.  
Courtesy of the artist and Catharine Clark Gallery  
Photo: Natalie Wollmann

## **Pg. 6**

Francisco Graciano  
*A Path Forward: Honoring Ohlone Land and Spirit (Hummingbird)*, 2024  
Photo: Montalvo Staff

## **Pg. 14**

Woody De Othello (b. 1991)  
*seeing both sides*, 2025  
Bronze  
Collection of Montalvo Arts Center  
Gift of the Lipman Family Foundation  
Courtesy of the artist and Jessica Silverman  
Photo: Paul Gallo

## **Pg. 15**

Nathan Lynch (b. 1974)  
*A Place for Meeting Strangers*, 2025  
Glazed ceramic  
40 x 36 x 36 in.  
Montalvo Arts Center, 2025 Marcus Commission  
Photo: Montalvo Staff

## **Pg. 16**

Wanxin Zhang (b. 1961)  
*Shout (I am a California artist, too)*, 2013  
High-fired clay with glaze  
36 x 22 x 18 in.  
Courtesy of the artist and Catharine Clark Gallery  
Photo: Paul Gallo (left)

## **Pg. 16 cont.**

Woody De Othello (b. 1991)  
*seeing both sides maquette*, 2024  
Glazed ceramic  
32 x 30 x 29 in.  
Courtesy of the artist and Jessica Silverman  
Photo: Paul Gallo (top right)

Linda Lopez (b. 1981)  
*Neighborhood Ombre Dust Furry*, 2025  
33½ x 25 x 25 in.  
Pigmented stoneware and glaze  
Courtesy of the artist and Mindy Solomon Gallery  
Photo: Paul Gallo (bottom right)

## **Pg. 17**

Ashwini Bhat (b. 1980)  
*Agnija, Born of Fire*, 2023  
Glazed ceramic  
32 x 30 x 29 in.  
Collection of Starworks, North Carolina  
Courtesy of the artist and Shoshana Wayne Gallery  
Photo: Paul Gallo (left)

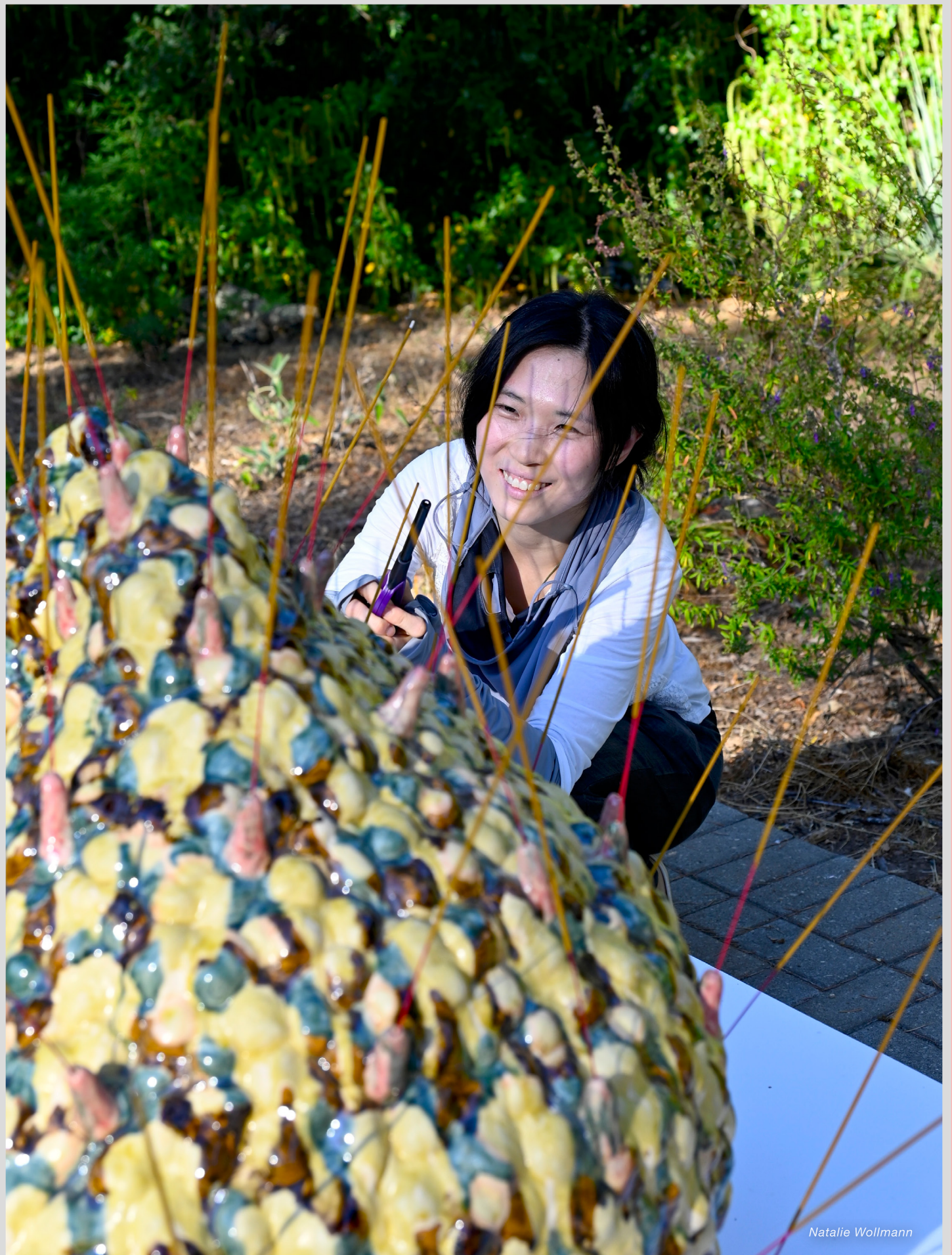
Annabeth Rosen (b. 1957)  
*Bunny*, 2011  
Fired and glazed ceramic, steel stands, casters, baling wire  
46 x 32 x 24 in.  
Courtesy of artist and P\*P\*O\*W Gallery  
Photo by Paul Gallo (right)

## **Pg. 20-21**

Headshots: Paul Gallo  
Photo: Miguel Ozuma  
*You Can't Eat Art* artwork by Olivia Esparza

## **Pg. 55**

Cathy Lu (b. 1984)  
*Untitled (Peach Incense Holder)*, 2021  
Glazed stoneware, joss sticks  
34 x 32 x 20 in.  
Courtesy of the artist  
Photo: Natalie Wollmann



*Natalie Wollmann*

# Save the Date...

...for some incredible events coming up in 2026! Learn more about each experience on our website:

[montalvoarts.org](http://montalvoarts.org)



May 01

**The Art of  
Fashion:  
Botanicals**

Jun 08

**Summer  
Camps**

Jun 26

**Marcus  
Exhibition**

Jul 17

**Enter If  
You Dare**  
Marcus Summer  
Festival

Sep 13

**The Art  
of Food  
& Wine**

Nov 01

**Lowrider  
Art  
Showcase**

**Montalvo thrives  
because of a  
community that  
believes in the arts  
and in access for all.  
If you are inspired  
by this work, we  
invite you to join us.**

By becoming a member, you help sustain our programs, support artists, and ensure that Montalvo remains a place where all are welcome to experience the arts. Learn more at [\*\*montalvoarts.org/support\*\*](https://montalvoarts.org/support).

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