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“UNDER INVESTIGATION” EXHIBITION AT LACC SHOWCASES ARTWORK BY ALBERTO LULE

Opening reception on March 10

(March 3, 2022) --Los Angeles City College (LACC) presents “Under Investigation,” a solo exhibition featuring works by artist Alberto Lule. The exhibit, including recent artworks of activism, will run from March 10, 2022 through April 15, 2022. LACC will host an opening reception on March 10, 2022 from 4 to 7pm at the LACC Visual and Media Arts (VAMA) Gallery.

Lule, a former graffiti artist, uses readymades, mixed media installations and tools used by agencies of authority to examine and critique mass incarceration and the prison industrial complex in the United States, particularly in the California prison system.

Lule served 14 years at several California prisons and uses his own experience to tie the prison industrial complex to other American issues including immigration, homelessness, drug addiction and mental health. His work explores the similarities and intersectionality of institutions and their role as gatekeepers of knowledge, authorities of culture and administrators of discipline and punishment.

“We are extremely proud to showcase this important exhibit at LACC and to enhance our community and students lives through inspirational and engaging art experiences,” said Dr. Mary Gallagher, President, Los Angeles City College.

The body of work most evident in this is "The Privatization of Correctional Institutions." This work features mannequins wearing articles of clothing created by prisoners. Lule calls to question the use of prison labor in the private sector and counters these prison-made products with his series, "Prison Readymades,"

handmade objects created by prisoners for personal use and most often deemed contraband by prison authorities.

In the "Investigation" series, Lule uses large plexiglass pieces and presses his bare skin against the surfaces. He then uses forensic fingerprint powder relative to what is operated by a forensic team. He spreads it over the oil residue left by his body, creating large out-of-focus imagery. In this series of works, Lule says he encourages and challenges the viewer to investigate the investigators. For this exhibition, he combines two of his Investigation pieces with the video work: WE SELL HOUSES FAST, a digital work that explores the possible signs one sees in neighborhoods that are being "cleaned up."

"Political activation is part of my life whether I am an artists or not, but as an artist, the fight gets a lot more creative, and I believe by observing and analyzing through an artistic lens, new strategies of dealing with these very harmful and impactful issues can be developed," said Lule. "I realized the trappings of the prison system was only one of the many institutions that exist to trap and exploit people in this country. I realized then that my entire life was comprised of 3 identities that this system has designated for me: the child of illegal immigrants, the gang member and the prisoner. Out of these three identities, I chose to create a new identity while incarcerated: the artist."

"We are looking forward to have the LACC community join us on campus for this very special exhibit," said Professor Alexandra Wiesenfeld, Department Chair, LACC Visual & Media Arts Department.

Visitors can view the exhibit at the VAMA Gallery located in DaVinci Hall on the LACC campus at 855 N. Vermont Ave.

About Los Angeles City College

Established in 1929, Los Angeles City College is one of the oldest of the California Community Colleges. Located in the heart of Hollywood, LACC provides a dynamic innovative learning environment offering more than 100 vocational and professional programs including degrees, transfer programs and certificates to more than 18,000 students. Los Angeles City College is home to one of the most vibrant and diverse campuses in the country. The campus provides a wide range of professional and vocational programs at a fraction of the cost of state and private colleges.

About Alberto Lule

Alberto Lule holds a BA in Art from the UCLA School of Arts and Architecture. His work was recently included in We Live, Memories of Resistance at the Oxy Arts Gallery at Occidental College and Language Games at the Fullerton College Art Gallery. In 2020, he was also the recipient of the Kay Nielsen Memorial Award from the Hammer Museum and a residency from Tiger Strikes Asteroid Los Angeles.

