

irene carvajal

artist | educator

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Education

2014	San Francisco Art Institute, MFA in Printmaking
1990-1992	University of Kansas, Art and Design, BFA in Graphic Design
1987-1989	University of Costa Rica, School of Fine Arts

Art Educator

June 2022	Promoted to Assistant Professor, San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI)
Fall Semester 2022	Lecturer, Art Practice, UC Berkeley
June 2018-present	Faculty Lead Program Instructor to Costa Rica, SJSU Global Studies
June 2018- June 2022	Lecturer, San Francisco Art Institute
June 2018- June 2022	Graduate Tutorial instructor, SFAI
August 2016- Present	Pictorial Department Senior Lecturer, San Jose State University
August-December 2020	Printmaking Department Chair SFAI
April 2015- June 2020	Guest Lecturer Stanford University
April 2015- June 2015	Lecturer, Stanford University

Courses Taught

- Drawing and Painting for Print, SFAI
- Intaglio, SFAI,
- Digital Tools for Artists, SFAI
- Screen Printing II, SFAI
- Graduate Tutorials, SFAI
- Multiplicity, SFAI
- Mural Painting, Stanford University
- Relief and letterpress, SJSU
- Intro to Screen Printing, SJSU

Medium and Message, SJSU
 Grow Green, experimental and environmental art making, SJSU
 Lithography, Stanford University
 Intaglio and Relief, UC Berkeley
 Drawing, City College of San Francisco

Exhibitions

- 2025 *Back to Square One, WORKS San Jose, San Jose , CA*
Pandora's Box, Artworks Downtown, San Rafael , CA
- 2024 *Un Puente Sobre el Rio San Juan, MACLA, San Jose, CA*
Querida Emilia, te cuento... Museo de Arte Costarricense, San José, Costa Rica
- 2023 *What is your sTILE? Google Headquarters*
The Butterfly Effect, Athens, Greece
Me in a(ME)rica, Root Division, San Francisco, CA
- 2022 *A Physical Book which Compiles Conceptual Books, Partial Press,*
Vida, Libertad y Semillas, University of Costa Rica, San Jose, Costa Rica
A World without Plastics, July, Ruth's Table Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Traveling through the Process, Galería Teorética, San Jose, Costa Rica
Geography of Arts, School of Visual Philosophy, San Jose, CA
Geography of Arts, March, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA
Collaboration with Future Farmers: Bones, Tones and Phones," Thompson Gallery, SJ,
CA
- 2021 *3 Turns Miami, VENUE, Miami, FL*
Labor and Immigration, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA
- 2020 *Barbarians at the Gate, Fort Mason Meadow, San Francisco, CA*
Tunnels of the Mind, Times Square, NYC and San Francisco, CA
Quarantine Picture Show, SF Camerawork, San Francisco, CA,
- 2019 *Homage to the Color Wheel, Bethany Center, Ruth's Table, San Francisco, CA.*
Ordinary, Art Works Downtown, San Rafael, CA
Wander Woman, Root Division, San Francisco, CA
- 2018 *Violence, University of Costa Rica, Art and Design Gallery, San Jose, Costa Rica*
RISE Show, Whitney Modern, Los Gatos, CA
Spoken and Unspoken Forms of Resistance, Sesnon Art Gallery, Santa Cruz, CA
- 2017 *Pictorial Faculty Show, San Jose State University Thompson Gallery, San Jose, CA*
Clothes Encounters, Bethany Center, San Francisco, CA
28 Days, Studio 1 Gallery, Sausalito, CA
- 2016 *In Between the Sheets, Museum Studio Gallery, Burlingame, CA*

- 2015 Cut from the Same Cloth, Root Division, San Francisco, CA
 Entangled, Museum Studio Gallery, Burlingame, CA
 Felt Encounters: Past and Present, InSpace, San Francisco, CA
 Endangered Languages, De Anza College Euphat Museum, Cupertino, CA
 Bearing Witness in the Drone Age, Durden and Ray, Los Angeles, CA
 Opening, Baynard Gallery, Ventura, CA.
 Bearing Witness: Surveillance in the Drone Age, San Francisco International Art Fair, San Francisco, CA
 Endangered Languages in the Information Age, Root Division, San Francisco, CA
- 2014 BAN7 Clinic: Object of Transformation, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA
 Uniforms, Linus Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
 Works of Passage, Studio 110 Projects, Sausalito, CA
 Principal, San Francisco Mint, San Francisco, CA
 Full Disclosure, Adobe Books, Backroom Gallery, San Francisco, CA
 MFA Now, Root Division, San Francisco, CA.

Curatorial Work

- 2025 *Back to Square One, WORKS San Jose, San Jose , CA*
- 2023 Environmental Printmaking, University of Costa Rica, San Jose, Costa Rica
- 2022 Traveling through the Process, Teoretica Gallery, San Jose, Costa Rica
- 2019 Environmental Art making II, University of Costa Rica, San Jose, Costa Rica
- 2018 Environmental Art Making, University of Costa Rica, San Jose, Costa Rica
- 2016 Under Pressure, SJSU, Art and Art History, Gallery 5, San Jose, CA
- 2016 Timothy Berry: Felix Culpa, Peninsula Museum of Art, Burlingame, CA
- 2015 David Tim: Homecoming, Peninsula Museum of Art, Burlingame, CA
 Gail Wight: The Hexapodarium, Peninsula Museum of Art, Burlingame, CA
 3D Printing Technologies: The Radical Shift, Peninsula Museum of Art, Burlingame, CA
- 2014 Andrew Voogel: Record of Exile, Peninsula Museum of Art, Burlingame, CA
 Pantea Karimi: Mediated Senses, Peninsula Museum of Art, Burlingame, CA
 Cosette Dudley: Collateral Damage, Peninsula Museum of Art, Burlingame, CA
 Gerry Lenhart: Emergence, Peninsula Museum of Art, Burlingame, CA
 Mark Kitaoka: 29 Hands, Peninsula Museum of Art, Burlingame, CA
 SGC: Bridges, Peninsula Museum of Art, Burlingame, CA
 Tom Killion: The Hand Carved Landscape, Peninsula Museum of Art, Burlingame, CA
 Cut from the Same Cloth" part of "Principal," San Francisco Mint, San Francisco, CA
 Material Girl, The Swell Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2012 Chromophilia, The Diego Rivera Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2010 Offerings, The Main Gallery, Redwood City, CA

Residencies

2019 La Ceiba Grafica. Veracruz, Mexico
 2018 University of Costa Rica. San José, Costa Rica
 San Francisco Center for the Book, San Francisco, CA
 2017 Bethany Center and Ruth's Table, San Francisco, CA
 2015 University of Costa Rica, Alberto Murillo, San José, Costa Rica
 stARTup art Fair mini residency
 University of Costa Rica, Alberto Murillo, San José, Costa Rica
 2014-2016 Root Division, San Francisco, CA
 2002 Kow Ceramic Studios, Yokohama, Japan
 2001 Nitta Studios, Yokohama, Japan

Publications

2025 *Pandora's Box Catalog, San Rafael, CA*
 2022 A physical book which compiles conceptual books by various artists, Partial Press, Chicago, IL
 2021 We are From, Washington University Press, St. Louis MO
 2019 Wander Woman Catalog, Root Division, San Francisco CA, 2019
 2018 Rise Catalog, Whitney Modern, Los Gatos CA, 2018
 2017 National ACTFL Conference, Nashville, TN, November, 2017
 2016 The Stanford Report, November 2016
 National ACTFL Conference, Boston, MA, November 2016
 2015 Killer Kreatives, On line Publication

Lectures

2025 *Pandora's Box, San Rafael, CA*
 2022 Conceptual Book Reading, Partial Press, via zoom
 2021 Murals, Human Rights, and Social Practice, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA
 Digital, Community Mural, Pacific Art League, Palo Alto, CA
 Labor and Immigration, SFAA, San Francisco, CA
 Geographies of Meaning, Print Symposium, SJSU, San Jose, CA
 2020 Inner Space, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA
 Intangible Object, On-line Symposium, via Zoom

Hostile Terrain 94 and the Passage of the Tortoise Part II, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

Mujeres Muralistas, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

Hostile Terrain 94 and the Passage of the Tortoise Part I, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

Quarantine Picture Show, SF Camerawork, San Francisco, CA

2019 One Thread, VENUE, Columbus, Ohio

2018 Environmental Lithography, University of Costa Rica, San Jose, Costa Rica

2017 Nashville, Tennessee. ACTFL Conference. "Art and Language Acquisition"

Pressed Dirty Brushes: Artist Talk, SJSU,

Artist Talk, Bethany Center and Ruth's Table Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2016 Art and Language Acquisition, ACTFL Conference, Boston, MA

Pressed: Artist Talk, Clayman Institute, Stanford University. Palo Alto, CA

Artist Talk "MFA or not to MFA", SF Art Gallery Association, San Francisco, CA.

Printmaking without a Press, Artist Talk and Demonstration, Pleasanton Artist League, CA

2015 Cut from the Same Cloth, Artist Talk, Valley Stitchers Guild, Lafayette, CA

Surviving the Art World, Artist Talk, Berkeley Extensions, Berkeley, CA

Socio Political content in Contemporary Art, Guest Lecturer, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

Mexican Muralism, Guest Lecturer, Artist Talk, Stanford University., Palo Alto, CA

Critical Reading of Art, Guest Lecturer, Artist Talk, Stanford University., Palo Alto, CA

2014 Political content in Contemporary Art, Guest Lecturer, Artist Talk, Stanford University., Palo Alto, CA

Awards

2023 SJSU Dean's Professional Development Grant

2022 California Arts Council Fellowship

SJSU AEGP Grant

2020 Stanford University Art Catalyst Grant

SJSU AEGP Grant

2019 SJSU Dean's Professional Development Grant

Stanford University Art Catalyst Grant

2017 SJSU Dean's Professional Development Grant

Stanford University Art Catalyst Grant

2014 San Francisco Art Institute. "Bronze Roller Award"

Studio Artist

My practice is interdisciplinary incorporating digital and traditional drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, video, performance, social practice and installation. I utilize both digital and traditional modes of image making including screen printing, collagraph, photo etch, Illustrator, photoshop, Procreate and Dall-E. I am a conceptual artist, interested in memory, transformation and pressure. I am a founding member of We Da Pepo art collective. A collective of transnational artists engaged in questions of border politics, hybridity, immigration and the American experience.

Curatorial Practice

I began curating at the Main Gallery in Redwood City in 2011 and since then I have also curated in SFAI's Diego Rivera Gallery, Swell Gallery, University of Costa Rica Galería de la Facultad de Arte and the San Francisco Mint. I co-curate independent exhibitions with other Bay Area artist/curators in particular Victoria Heilweil, Hanna Regev and Rea Lynn de Guzman primarily at Ruth's Table and Root Division in San Francisco.

I was the curator for works on paper at The Peninsula Museum of Art (PMA) from 2013-2015. With PMA I curated for a variety of media including collage, video, sculpture, painting, photography, and printmaking. Responsibilities include studio visits, exhibition committee meetings, writing curatorial notes and artist bios, designing exhibitions, coordinating with preparators, visiting curators, artists and vendors, choosing and installing art works as well as lighting and wall label design. PMA is a small organization, as such it presented me with opportunities to be directly involved in the creation of curatorial documents, design of floor plans, manufacturing and design of supporting items for installation and exhibition.

Collaborations/ Social Practice/ Mural Projects

2024	"Querida Emilia, te cuento..." , activation and mural at Museo de Arte Costarricense, San Jose, Costa Rica.
2023	"What is your sTILE?" , activation and mural at Google Headquarters in Mountain View CA.
2023	Response to Yolanda Lopez, Art Activation at the San Jose Museum of Art
2021-Present	The Frozen Trojan horse, social practice activation. Has traveled to Mission Dolores, Sanchez Adobe, Mission Santa Clara, Mission San Jose and is scheduled to continue to travel south visiting all the missions of California. It has also been activated at Stanford University, San Jose State University, San Jose Museum of Art (SJMA), San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI), at the Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana (MACLA), The School of Visual Philosophy and along side the Rascuache Liberation Front.
Since 2014	I have composed, directed, coordinated, and participated in public mural projects.

- 2019-Present Founding member of WE DA PEPO Art collective.
- 2017-2018 Artist in residence at Ruth's Table/Bethany Center. I coordinated and participated in the creation of a temporary mural titled "Better with Age". This mural has now been repurposed and moved to an indoor location inside Bethany Center.
- 2015-2020 I developed and taught a program through Stanford University titled "Over the Border and Through the Hood". We explore art as an immersive setting for second language acquisition. In the course of a 10-week quarter we study latines mural painters, their influence on muralists in this country, the similarities and differences between mural painting on either side of the boarder and we create a mural in the City of Redwood City. We have created 8 murals in and around Hoover Park.
- 2014-2015 Through Root Division I was commissioned to create 5 murals for the Benioff Children's Hospital these were produced in collaboration with middle school children from the San Francisco Unified School District and artists from Creativity Explored.