

Library Foundation of Los Angeles
Visualizing Language: A Zapotec Worldview
Artist bios

Cosijoesa Eleazar Cernas García (Tlacolula, México, 1992), lives and works in Tlacolula and Oaxaca. He is a self-taught artist and has participated in visual art workshops and classes for the past ten years. He studied contemporary art at La Curtiduría in Oaxaca City from 2012-2014 under the leadership of artists Demián Flores, Mónica Castillo, Edgardo Ganado Kim and Naomi Rincón Gallardo. His collective exhibitions include *Mexicanos al Grito de Guerra* (Tlacolula, 2011) and *Es el Fin al fin* (Casa de la Cultura Tlacolula, 2012) and participation in the Puntos de Encuentro Visual Arts Festival (Oaxaca 2012).

As part of the Tlacolulokos' exhibition *The South Never Dies* (MUAC, 2014; Museo Amparo, 2015) Cernas screened the videos "The Dance of the Marmots," "Place of the Crooked Things," and "Eternally Forgotten." He currently teaches silk screening classes, graphic design and voice over at the King Kong workshop in Tlacolula. His musical project "Sonido Cucho" remixes cumbia music and audio from yellow journalism.

As a member of the Tlacolulokos collective, Cernas is in charge of diffusion, registering and editing the audiovisual material, and maintaining social networking spaces, in addition to his contributions as an artist.

Javier Dario Canul Melchor (Tlacolula, México, 1984) is a visual artist living and working in Tlacolula and Oaxaca. He began his self-taught technical training in 2002 through workshops and courses at La Curtiduría – Contemporary Space for the Arts in Oaxaca City. His painted work reflects a quest for technical perfection while his graphic work reflects an interest in evolving beyond traditional approaches to mural production. His participation in urban art collectives is a response to the search for diverse means of expression.

He entered the art scene in 2010 after receiving a scholarship to attend CEACO (Contemporary Art Specialty Courses), at La Curtiduría under the direction of Demián Flores, Mónica Castillo, Edgardo Ganado Kim and Naomi Rincón Gallardo. This experience has influenced the diverse creative language he employs in developing the themes in his work.

Currently, Canul facilitates an experimental visual space in the community of Tlacolula, focused on experimenting with diverse mediums and with work that addresses social and political concerns. The goal of the space is to create networks between the participants and the artistic sphere, while similarly promoting and circulating the artistic proposals developed there.

Tlacolulokos is a self-taught visual art collective comprised of Darío Canul (1984) and Cosijoesa Cernas (1992). They work from the community of Tlacolula de Matamoros, Oaxaca, and focus on the self-critique of identity and traditions. Their work is part of community life and is an investigation of the iconography of violence and the interaction between folklore, tourism, migration and contemporary social processes.

The artists in the collective attended the contemporary art course (CEACO) at La Curtiduría – Contemporary Space for the Arts, in Oaxaca City. Their production encompasses diverse mediums that range from painting and murals to graphic arts, art objects, and video and musical explorations.

Exhibitions

Mural *Oaxaca Ingobernable* (1300 E. 1st St., Self Help Graphics/ Pico Aliso Metro Station, Los Angeles)

Mural *South Central Dreams* (S. Hoover St. and Slauson Ave, South Los Angeles) PECDA grant, Oaxaca 2015 “Mil y un templos destruirás,” community workshops

El sur nunca muere (Museo Amparo, Puebla, 2015)

Mural *Sindios* (Espacio Cultural Border, 2015)

El sur nunca muere (MUAC, Mexico City, 2014)

Oaxaca, expresiones del arte (Galería Oscar Román, Mexico City, 2013)

Los Tlacolulokos (La Curtiduría, Oaxaca, 2012)

2º Encuentro de inframundo Festival de lucha libre (La Curtiduría, Oaxaca, 2012)

Puntos de encuentro (Oaxaca, 2012)

Ve bien, ve al beis (Mexico City, 2012)

Es el fin al fin (Tlacolula, Oaxaca, 2012)

Fresno Art Museum (California, 2011)