

Raul Baltazar

Born in 1972, Los Angeles, California

For the recent Pacific Standard Time Festival: Live Art LA/LA, Raul Baltazar staged *Mi Sereno: Two Ritual Performances Honoring Our Past, Present, and Future Generations*, a two-part performance meant to encourage intergenerational dialogue through its procession up and down Ascot Hills Park; it ended with a communal meal, which served as an offering to sacred spaces.

A multidisciplinary artist who also works in painting, sculpture, collage, film, and public art, Baltazar emerged from the scene around the Public Resource Center/Centro de Regeneración, a revolution-minded enterprise founded by Rage Against the Machine guitarist Zack de la Rocha in the 1990s.

Performance work is for when he's ready "to go out to the public and communicate," Baltazar said—whereas sculpture becomes an extension of his body, and video functions as "today's muralism." "I'm interested in a bottom-up perspective and gaze, using what's available. It's about the story in the end."



Performance view of *Mi Sereno*, 2018.



4th Dimension, 2017.

Melissa Cody

Born in 1983, No Water Mesa, Arizona

Melissa Cody is a fourth-generation Navajo weaver and textile artist who melds traditional imagery and symbols with contemporary aesthetics and poetic texts. She spent much her life on Navajo land in northern Arizona before moving to Los Angeles in 2013 with her partner, whose death shortly thereafter led her to take a break from weaving.

When she was ready to return to the loom, Cody began to incorporate text into her woven pieces as a way to process her loss and to reflect on the historical displacement of her people. One piece reads, "Invisible tears in my eyes / Incredible pain in my heart / Indestructible memories all in review / Impossible though things may get / Improbable I will forget. . ."

"My work became not only a voice for me to speak about my personal feelings but also to speak on a larger platform about what a lot of other people are affected by," Cody said. "Understanding that my work had a purpose is where the drive and energy came from."