

Exhibition: Alejandro G. Iñárritu: *CARNE y ARENA (Virtually present, Physically invisible)*

On View: From July 2, 2017

Location: BCAM, Level 1



Design: Neil Kellerhouse

(Los Angeles—June 2, 2017) The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) presents Alejandro G. Iñárritu: *CARNE y ARENA (Virtually present, Physically invisible)*, a conceptual virtual reality installation that explores the human condition of immigrants and refugees. Having premiered in May at the 70th Cannes Film Festival as its first virtual reality Official Selection, and produced and financed by Legendary Entertainment and Fondazione Prada, the extensive full version will subsequently open at Fondazione Prada in Milan (June 7, 2017–January 15, 2018) before traveling to LACMA—the first U.S. museum to debut this installation.

Centered around a 6 ½-minute solo virtual reality experience that reunites frequent collaborators Iñárritu and cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki alongside producer Mary Parent and ILMxLAB, *CARNE y ARENA* employs state-of-the-art immersive technology to create a multi-narrative light space with human characters. Based on true accounts, the superficial lines between subject and bystander are blurred and bound together, allowing individuals to walk in a vast space and thoroughly live a fragment of the refugees' personal journeys. The installation at LACMA is made possible through a generous contribution by Arnon Milchan and New Regency, who are proud to support talent and artists such as Alejandro G. Iñárritu with whom they have a longstanding creative partnership.

“During the past four years in which this project has been growing in my mind, I had the privilege of meeting and interviewing many Mexican and Central American refugees. Their life stories haunted me, so I invited some of them to collaborate with me in the project,” Iñárritu said. “My intention was to experiment with VR technology to explore the human condition in an attempt to break the dictatorship of the frame, within which things are just observed, and claim the space to allow the visitor to go through a direct experience walking in the immigrants’ feet, under their skin, and into their hearts.”

Michael Govan, LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director said, “Over the last several years, Alejandro has become a great friend to the museum, and we honored him at our 2015 Art+Film Gala. His visionary works have sparked our imaginations and broadened our perspectives. Using this immersive technology, he has gone beyond the confines of the cinematic screen to create an entirely new narrative art form. And while the images immediately depicted in Alejandro’s immersive artwork conjure the border between the U.S. and Mexico, the real subject of the work is larger: the many times in history and art history that borders have become places of conflict and opportunity, and the many people whose identities have been lost to history.”

As stated by Germano Celant, Fondazione Prada’s Artistic and Scientific Superintendent, “With *CARNE y ARENA*, Iñárritu turns the exchange between vision and experience into a process of osmosis in which the duality between the organic body and the artificial body is dissolved. A fusion of identities arises: a psychophysical unity in which, by crossing the threshold of the virtual, the human strays into the imaginary and vice versa. It is a revolution in communication in which seeing is transformed into feeling and into a physical engagement with cinema: a transition from the screen to the gaze of the human being, with a total immersion of the senses. Iñárritu’s project perfectly embodies Fondazione Prada’s experimental vocation and its long-lasting engagement towards the correlation between cinema, technology, and the arts.”

Hyundai Motor said, “It is our great pleasure to announce the third exhibition of The Hyundai Project: Art + Technology as a part of the 10-year partnership with LACMA. We recognize LACMA’s immense contribution both to the city of Los Angeles and to the art scene at large with innovative programs that have provided inspiration to so many people.”

CARNE y ARENA will be on view at LACMA from July 2, 2017 and will require a special timed ticket to enter. Tickets will be available at lacma.org.

About Alejandro G. Iñárritu

Academy Award–winning director, writer, and producer Alejandro G. Iñárritu is one of the most acclaimed and well-regarded filmmakers working today. Most recently, Iñárritu directed and produced *The Revenant* starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hardy, which he co-wrote with Mark L. Smith. The film, a tale of revenge set against the harrowing backdrop of the 19th-century American frontier, was released in 2015 by 20th Century Fox and earned Iñárritu his second consecutive Academy Award for Best Director. Iñárritu had won the previous year for *Birdman: Or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)*. The dark comedy, which Iñárritu also co-wrote and produced, took home the prize for Best Picture as well as earned honors for Best Original Screenplay and Best Cinematography. With four total wins, Iñárritu is first Mexican filmmaker to ever win for either director or producer in the history of the Academy Awards. Other previous credits include the Spanish-language and Oscar-nominated *Beautiful, Babel*, for which Iñárritu won the Best Director Award at the 2006 Cannes Film Festival, and the critically acclaimed *21 Grams*, which earned nominations for Lead Actress (Naomi Watts) and Supporting Actor (Benicio del Toro). Iñárritu made his feature directorial debut in 2001 with Academy Award-nominated *Amores Perros*, a drama that explored Mexican society told through the perspective of three intertwining stories connected by a car accident in Mexico City. Iñárritu first began his career as a radio host and radio director at Mexican rock radio station WFM before transitioning to writing, producing, and directing short films and commercials under his Z Films company in Mexico.

About Emmanuel Lubezki

Emmanuel Lubezki is one of the most innovative cinematographers known for his groundbreaking uses of natural lighting and continuous uninterrupted shots. With *Carne y Arena*, Lubezki continues to push technological boundaries and help redefine the cinematic future. Lubezki became the first cinematographer to win three consecutive Academy Awards for his work in Alfonso Cuarón's *Gravity* (2014) and Alejandro Iñárritu's *Birdman* (2015) and *The Revenant* (2016). Lubezki is a frequent collaborator of Cuarón, Iñárritu, and Terrence Malick and has lensed such films as Malick's *Tree of Life* and *The New World* and Cuarón's *Children of Men*, *Y Tu Mama Tambien*, and *A Little Princess*. Other film credits include Tim Burton's *Sleepy Hollow*, Michael Mann's *Ali*, and Rodrigo Garcia's *Last Days in the Desert*. In addition to eight Academy award nominations, Lubezki is the recipient of five ASC Awards, four BAFTA Awards, and the 2016 Royal Photographic Society Lumière Award for major achievement in cinematography. For *Gravity*, a science-fiction thriller set in

outer space, Lubezki invented the 20-foot-high LIGHT BOX, an enclosure affixed with over 4,000 LED bulbs for programming different projections of earth and space. The film was praised for the way it combined two shots through digital backgrounds of space to create the illusion of scenes done in a single shot. The following year, Lubezki used a similar technique in Iñárritu's *Birdman* making the entire movie appear as though it was photographed in one continuous take. *The Revenant* was shot entirely in the wilderness during a frigid winter, minimizing the amount of CGI and using only natural lighting. Lubezki was born in Mexico City and studied film at Mexico's Centro Universitario de Estudios Cinematograficos (Cuec) where he met future collaborators Cuarón and Iñárritu.

Credit:

This exhibition was organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Alejandro González Iñárritu, and Legendary Entertainment.

Made possible by Arnon Milchan and New Regency



Produced and Financed by Legendary Entertainment and Fondazione Prada



Presented by:



This exhibition is part of The Hyundai Project: Art + Technology at LACMA, a joint initiative exploring the convergence of art and technology.

All exhibitions at LACMA are underwritten by the LACMA Exhibition Fund. Major annual support is provided by Kitzia and Richard Goodman, with generous annual funding from Lauren Beck and Kimberly Steward, the Judy and Bernard Briskin Family Foundation, Louise and Brad Edgerton, Edgerton Foundation, Emily and Teddy Greenspan, Jenna and Jason Grosfeld, The Jerry and Kathleen Grundhofer Foundation, David Schwartz Foundation, Inc., Taslimi Foundation, and Lenore and Richard Wayne.

About LACMA

Since its inception in 1965, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) has been devoted to collecting works of art that span both history and geography, in addition to representing Los Angeles's uniquely diverse population. Today LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection that includes

more than 130,000 objects dating from antiquity to the present, encompassing the geographic world and nearly the entire history of art. Among the museum's strengths are its holdings of Asian art; Latin American art, ranging from masterpieces from the Ancient Americas to works by leading modern and contemporary artists; and Islamic art, of which LACMA hosts one of the most significant collections in the world. A museum of international stature as well as a vital part of Southern California, LACMA shares its vast collections through exhibitions, public programs, and research facilities that attract over one million visitors annually, in addition to serving millions through digital initiatives such as online collections, scholarly catalogues, and interactive engagement. LACMA is located in Hancock Park, 30 acres situated at the center of Los Angeles, which also contains the La Brea Tar Pits and Museum and the forthcoming Academy Museum of Motion Pictures. Situated halfway between the ocean and downtown, LACMA is at the heart of Los Angeles.

Location: 5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA, 90036. lacma.org
Press Contact: press@lacma.org or 323 857-6522

About Legendary Entertainment

Legendary Entertainment is a leading media company with film (Legendary Pictures), television and digital (Legendary Television and Digital Media), and comics (Legendary Comics) divisions dedicated to owning, producing, and delivering content to worldwide audiences. Legendary has built a library of marquee media properties and has established itself as a trusted brand which consistently delivers high-quality, commercial entertainment including some of the world's most popular intellectual property. To learn more visit: www.legendary.com.

About Fondazione Prada

Fondazione Prada is an institution devoted to art and culture created by Miuccia Prada and Patrizio Bertelli. With the aim of experimenting new grounds of confrontation on visual languages, it has presented shows by international artists, philosophy conferences, research exhibitions, and performing arts projects. Since 2003, its interest towards media and technology-related languages has manifested in collaborations with international institutions such as the Tribeca Film Festival and the Venice Film Festival; in artistic projects by Steve McQueen, Tobias Rehberger, and Francesco Vezzoli—all of whom have subverted the rules of the filmic process or reinvented TV and cinema genres; and in the film festivals conceived by Roman Polanski and Alejandro González Iñárritu; as well as in the experimental platform and alternative film school “Belligerent Eyes.”

To learn more visit: www.fondazioneprada.org.

About New Regency

Founded in 1991 by renowned producer Arnon Milchan, New Regency is actively engaged in entertaining the world. The company has produced some of the most successful and critically-acclaimed films of all time with over 130 films and more than 50 television series in the company's vast library, including Academy Award®-winner *The Revenant* (2016) and the back-to-back Academy Award®-winning Best Pictures, *12 Years A Slave* (2014) and *Birdman* (2015). New Regency is also dedicated to continuing to foster its unparalleled filmmaker relationships and today boasts partnerships with the most acclaimed and sought-after creative forces in the industry.

About Hyundai Motor

Established in 1967, Hyundai Motor Company is committed to becoming a lifetime partner in automobiles and beyond. The company leads the Hyundai Motor Group, an innovative business structure capable of circulating resources from molten iron to finished cars. Hyundai Motor has eight manufacturing bases and seven design &

technical centers worldwide and in 2016 sold 4.86 million vehicles globally. With more than 110,000 employees worldwide, Hyundai Motor continues to enhance its product line-up with localized models and strives to strengthen its leadership in clean technology, starting with the world's first mass-produced hydrogen-powered vehicle, ix35 Fuel Cell and IONIQ, the world's first model with three electrified powertrains in a single body type. More information about Hyundai Motor and its products can be found at: <http://worldwide.hyundai.com> or <http://globalpr.hyundai.com>

Hyundai Motor has a strong commitment to supporting art communities and has initiated partnerships with organizations around the world to offer better access to experiencing art. Hyundai Motor explores the unique values of art with the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea (MMCA), Tate, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). Further information about Hyundai Motor's global art partnerships and its various activities is available at: <http://brand.hyundai.com>

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