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News Release

New Mural, *IN CHAINS*, 2020, by Marcos Ramirez ERRE, is installed by Murals of La Jolla, a project of the Athenaeum.

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**Marcos Ramirez ERRE
IN CHAINS, 2020**

7744 Fay Avenue
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Marcos Ramirez ERRE's mural, *IN CHAINS*, reappropriates the Snellen eye chart as a means of delivering critical commentary on issues of race, identity, and culture. Deemed the “king of jazz” by Duke Ellington, Paul Whiteman was an American bandleader, composer, orchestral director, and violist crucial to the jazz movement of the 1920s and 30s. He began his 1926 book, *Jazz*, with the provocative quote “Jazz came to America 300 years ago in chains.” ERRE employs Whiteman’s quote to shed light on parallel issues regarding structural and systemic racism still facing America almost a century later. The trope of the eye chart pushes beyond the didactic definition of vision to bring up issues of perception regarding race while also critiquing the biases of recorded history. Often responding to contemporary events in his work, ERRE’s timely mural pushes the viewer to delve more critically into how America’s past continues to have an effect on the present day treatment and understanding of race, imploring its audience to participate in setting a new precedent for the future, free from the chains of systemic racism.

Marcos Ramirez ERRE has come to be defined by his clever visual arguments and masterfully crafted work that maintains a poetic sensibility, even when leveling biting political commentary. He was born in 1961 in Tijuana, Mexico. ERRE received his Law Degree from La Universidad Autónoma de Baja California. In 1983, he immigrated to the United States where he worked for 17 years in the construction industry. His multi-disciplinary background has shaped his practice. He came to prominence in the 1990s with large public installations that dealt with migrants, immigration, and border control, specifically focusing on the Mexico-US border crossing. Much of ERRE's work grapples with these issues.

In 2007, he received a United States Artist Fellowship and since 2009, he has been a Fellow of Mexico's Sistema Nacional de Creadores de Arte (National System of Art Creators). His work has been featured in many major international exhibitions including InSite94, San Diego/Tijuana; InSite97, San Diego/Tijuana; the Havana Biennial, Cuba; the Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Moscow Biennial, Russia; the San Juan Poly/Graphic Triennial, Puerto Rico; and the 1st Encounter Between Two Seas: Bienal de São Paulo/Valencia (Brazil and Spain). Ramirez ERRE lives and works in San Diego, California.

Murals of La Jolla was founded by the La Jolla Community Foundation and is now a project of the Athenaeum. The goal of the mural project is to enhance the civic character of the community by commissioning public art projects on private property throughout La Jolla. The Murals of La Jolla Art Advisory Committee is composed of the heads of the major visual arts organizations who commission artists to propose the intervention of an image on specific walls on privately owned buildings. The first two artworks, by Kim MacConnel and Roy McMakin, were painted directly on their sites. Subsequent artworks have been printed on vinyl and installed on billboard-like structures, with the exception of Heather Gwen Martin's mural, which is painted on its site. Each work is on view for a minimum of two years and has been generously funded by private donations.

Murals of La Jolla, a project of the Athenaeum, demonstrates that commissioning artists to create works for public spaces brings energy and vitality to a community.

Derrick Cartwright, Associate Professor and Director of University Galleries, University of San Diego, said "Murals of La Jolla is another feather in La Jolla's cap. It serves our community, as well as all the folks who visit here for a day. So long as we keep inviting artists of this caliber, people are going to be surprised and entertained. San Diego can't have enough good public art."

Murals of La Jolla committee members include: Matt Browar, Committee Chair, art collector, and CEO of Browar Development Corporation; Mary Beebe, Director of the Stuart Collection at the University of California, San Diego; Derrick Cartwright, Associate Professor and Director of University Galleries, University of San Diego; Lynda Forsha, Executive Director, Murals of La Jolla, and Principal of Art Advisory Services; Kathryn Kanjo, David C. Copley Director and CEO of the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego; Patsy Marino, community leader and art collector; and Erika Torri, Joan & Irwin Jacobs Executive Director of the Athenaeum Music & Arts Library.

MURAL OF LA JOLLA BOOK (2020)

Murals of La Jolla is a hardbound, 176-page book, documenting the first 10 years (2010–2019) and first 30 murals of the project. The book includes two essays—*La Jolla Views*, by Susan Morgan, and *Reframing a Community: Murals of La Jolla*, by G. James Daichendt; artist biographies; and a map with mural locations.

For more information about the book, please visit www.ljathenaeum.org/murals-book

The Athenaeum Music & Arts Library, located in the heart of La Jolla, in San Diego County, is one of only 17 nonprofit membership libraries in the United States. This rare cultural institution offers a depth

and accessibility of resources and programs found nowhere else in the region including one of the most significant collections of artists' books in Southern California. The Athenaeum also presents a year-round schedule of art exhibitions, concerts (classical, jazz, acoustic, and new music), lectures, studio art classes through its School of the Arts, tours, and special events.

For more information, please visit www.ljathenaeum.org and www.muralsoflajolla.com.

Artists/murals commissioned are listed in reverse chronological order and murals currently on view are listed in bold type.

Artist	Title of Mural	Mural Location	Date Installed /taken down
Marcos Ramirez ERRE	<i>IN CHAINS</i>	7744 Fay Avenue	2020
Beatriz Milhazes	<i>Gamboa Seasons in La Jolla</i>	1111 Prospect Street	2020
Isaac Julien	<i>ECLIPSE (PLAYTIME), 2013 (detail)</i>	7569 Girard Avenue	2020
Monique van Genderen	<i>Paintings Are People Too</i>	7661 Girard Avenue	2020
Alex Katz	<i>Bill 2</i>	7540 Fay Avenue	2019
Roman de Salvo	<i>McCairn</i>	5535 La Jolla Boulevard	2019
Sandra Cinto	<i>Untitled</i>	7835 Ivanhoe Avenue	2018
Raul Guerrero	<i>Raymond Chandler at the Whaling Bar</i>	1162 Prospect Street	2018
Kota Ezawa	<i>Once Upon a Time in the West</i>	7905 Herschel Avenue	2017
Steven Hull	<i>Man, Myth & Magic</i>	7509 Girard Avenue	2017
Heather Gwen Martin	<i>Landing</i>	7724 Girard Avenue	2016
Lorenzo Hurtado Segovia	<i>Demos Gracias</i>	2259 Avenida de la Playa	2016
Byron Kim/Victoria Fu	<i>Suns</i>	7766 Fay Avenue	2016
Terry Allen	<i>Playing La Jolla (For All It's Worth)</i>	7611 Fay Avenue	2015
Marcos Ramirez ERRE	<i>Is All That It Proves</i>	7744 Fay Avenue	2015/2020
Mel Bochner	<i>Blah, Blah, Blah,</i>	1111 Prospect Street	2015/2017
Mark Bradford	<i>Sexy Cash</i>	7540 Fay Avenue	2015/2019
Jean Lowe	<i>Tear Stains Be Gone</i>	7661 Girard Avenue	2015/2020
William Wegman	<i>Opening</i>	1162 Prospect Street	2014/2018
Kelsey Brookes	<i>One Pointed Attention</i>	7835 Ivanhoe Avenue	2014/2018
Nina Katchadourian	<i>Whale</i>	1250 Prospect Street	2014/2016

Robert Irwin/ Philipp Scholz Rittermann	<i>The Real Deal</i>	7611 Fay Avenue	2013/2014
Catherine Opie	<i>The Shores</i>	7509 Girard Avenue	2013/2017
Gajin Fujita	<i>Tail Whip</i>	7540 Fay Avenue	2013/2015
Fred Tomaselli	<i>Expecting to Fly (for the Zeros)</i>	7569 Girard Avenue	2013/2020
Julian Opie	<i>Walking in the City.project 1</i> <i>Walking in the City.project 2</i>	5535 La Jolla Boulevard	2013/2019
Richard Allen Morris	<i>Applied</i>	7744 Fay Avenue	2012/2015
Robert Ginder	<i>House</i>	1162 Prospect Street	2012/2014
Ann Hamilton	<i>at Sea</i>	7905 Herschel Avenue	2012/2017
Ryan McGinness	<i>53 Women</i>	1111 Prospect Street	2011/2015
John Baldessari	<i>Brain/Cloud (with Seascape and Palm Tree)</i>	1250 Prospect Street	2011
Anya Gallaccio	<i>Surf's up</i>	7540 Fay Avenue	2011/2013
Roy McMakin	<i>Favorite Color</i>	7596 Eads Avenue	2010
Kim MacConnel	<i>Girl from Ipanema</i>	7724 Girard Avenue	2010/2016

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