

## A Word from the Curator

Being able to dig in the dirt is one of the things that I enjoy about gardening. After that, I can plant bulbs or starter plants in the soil I tilled. I enjoy mixing flowers that have different scents or colors together. The blend brings me joy. That is the essence of this exhibition — Root of Color.

Increasingly, Harlem is becoming a place where Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) are learning how to support one another more in an ever-complicated world.

What do we have in common? Similar struggles and challenges. A desire for peace, love, acceptance, family, and stability. In the mix of religion, technology, and perspectives, the path to reaching those goals may differ, but the result will bring the same satisfaction and joy for all.

Several seasoned professionals are represented in this show. We are proud to feature Chanee Choi, Tai Hwa Goh, Francisco Alvarado-Juárez and Luis Pagan. Their use of color complements each other beautifully.

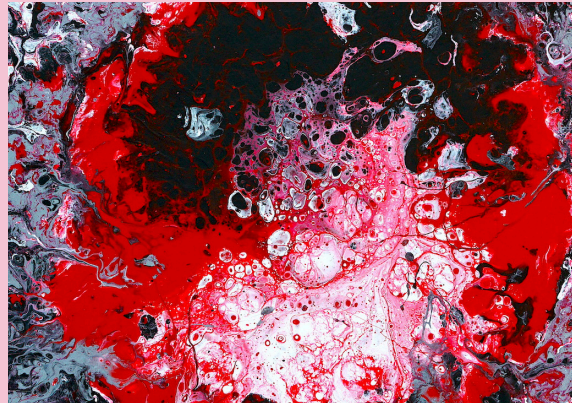
AHL Foundation hopes that such sharing and dialogue will help strengthen Harlem as a distinct place.

- Savona Bailey-McClain

**Savona Bailey-McClain** is a Harlem based curator and arts administrator. She is the Executive Director/Chief Curator of the West Harlem Art Fund, which has organized high-profile public arts exhibits throughout New York City for the past 20 years, including Times Square, DUMBO, Soho, Governors Island and Harlem. Her public art installations encompass sculpture, drawings, performance, sound, and mixed media, and have been covered extensively by the New York Times, Art Daily, Artnet, Los Angeles Times and Huffington Post, among many others. She is host/ producer of "State of the Arts NYC," a podcast program on Podyssey, Radio Public, Youtube, Mixcloud and other audio platforms. She is a member of ArtTable, Advisory Board member of NYC's Dance in Sacred Places, Governors Island Advisory Council and new Board member of NY Artists Equity Association.

## Luis A. Pagan

Luis A. Pagan is an abstract painter, born in Arecibo, Puerto Rico and raised in the South Bronx. During childhood, his interest in art began in the 1980s graffiti movement, and drawing Marvel superheroes. Luis didn't think of becoming an artist until he met his college roommate who was studying art education at Pace University in 1991. Inspired by art, creativity, and the will to learn something new, Luis enrolled at FIT in 1995 to study fine arts. He graduated Cum Laude in 1997 with an AAS degree. He continued his art education at Purchase College studying art history and painting in 2003. He was placed on the Dean's list twice and earned his BFA in 2005. Since graduation, Luis' work has been on display at over 100 venues throughout NYC, Westchester County, Florida, and Puerto Rico.



Luis A. Pagan, *COVID-19, Virus, 'Rona, Intruder, Violator, 2022*  
Acrylic & Pouring Medium, 16" x 20" x 1.5"

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Council on  
the Arts



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Space Uptown Presents

# ROOT OF COLOR

March 18 - April 28, 2023

Francisco Alvarado-Juárez  
Chanee Choi  
Tai Hwa Goh  
Luis A. Pagan

Curated by Savona Bailey-McClain

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## Chanee Choi

Chanee Choi has developed a ritualistic craft-based art practice that transcends the conservative and isolationist roots of traditional East Asian craftwork by focusing on a celebration of feminist theory and modern tech. Within this hybrid genre, she produces both embodied and virtual immersive experiences exploring the effect of immigration on issues of identity, and the synesthetic processes of corporeal-cognitive space. Chanee is a transdisciplinary artist. She is originally from South Korea and now lives, works, and studies in Seattle, Washington. She earned her BFA in Craft Design from Dongduk Women's University in 2013 and MFA in Fiber and Material Studies from the Art Institute of Chicago in 2016. Choi earned Ph.D. in Art and Technology at DXARTS at the University of Washington in 2022. Her projects and exhibitions have been shown domestically and internationally, New York, Chicago, Covington(KY), Seattle, Los Angeles, Hongkong, Taipei, Berlin, Barcelona, Helsinki, and Seoul.



*Remembrance: Coral (2023), live performance by the artist Chanee Choi during which she controls her 3d animated video game with an EEG sensor-headset.*

## Tai Hwa Goh



Tai Hwa Goh is a Korean-born artist who primarily works with printmaking and paper installation. Goh received a MFA degree at the University of Maryland specializing in printmaking and sculpture. She also received a MFA in printmaking at Seoul National University in Korea. She built a strong career as a professional artist and a lecturer in Washington D.C. area during 2000-2007. She actively interacted with local artists and gallery curators to explore new idea of merging printmaking with sculpture. She moved to New York Metropolitan area in 2007, and continued to present her art works in numerous shows. Her exhibitions including Wave Hill, William Paterson University, IPCNY, DUMBO Art Festival, Islip Museum, Gallery Aferro, AIR Gallery, Snug Harbor Center for The Art and many more, have been highlighted in the local media and art community.

*Tai Hwa Goh, Asymmetric symmetry, 2021  
Screen-print on hand-waxed paper & fabric, PVC, plastic.*

## Francisco Alvarado-Juárez

During the last forty-five years, Francisco Alvarado-Juárez has spent his artistic career, at home and abroad, working with museums that give him the freedom to experiment without limits of expression, averaging about one individual exhibition a year. He has completed more than 48 individual and 85 group shows. His last three installations (Southampton Arts Center, North Dakota Museum of Art and Denver Art Museum) simultaneously evoked a sense of calm and chaos, while poetically alluding to the complicated environmental problems for which mankind is responsible. Throughout his career, Francisco has received more than 20 awards. His artwork is represented in the permanent collection of more than 25 museums around the world.



*Francisco Alvarado-Juárez, Santa Lucía #16, 2021  
photography, 13" x 19"*