



New Exhibition

Explore unfamiliar terrain in *Lay of the Land*

WHEN: On view November 2nd, 2018 - February 17th, 2019

BIG IDEA: Experience Chilean-born artist Rodrigo Valenzuela's response to the dislocation and disorientation of being an immigrant in a new place.

Ten years ago, Rodrigo Valenzuela was waiting for work at Home Depot as a day laborer. Today, he is a professional artist and UCLA professor. Step into his shoes at this new exhibition at the MAH. See how he took his journey through immigration and dislocation and made it into a welcoming exhibition made up of abstract landscapes, film, and foosball.

But you may find these landscapes are not what they seem. While made up of real places— like Joshua Tree National Park and Chile's Atacama Desert— the artworks document a place that don't actually exist. The ten artworks located in the gallery combine photographs of Valenzuela's two countries: Chile and the United States. He pieces the landscapes together as a way of combining his connections to both countries. The result is a barren desert landscape that feels both familiar yet strangely foreign.

Using a toothbrush and a sponge, Valenzuela photocopies these images layer by layer onto a canvas. It's hard work, and it's meant to be that way. Relating back to his time as a day laborer, his artistic process is as grueling as his work was before.

Now a UCLA professor with permanent residency, his art shows the struggles he went through in making the US feel like home. The artwork challenges you to reflect on how you'd find your way in such a foreign place.

When you walk into the gallery, you may find something else unfamiliar: a foosball table. Valenzuela also uses soccer as a way to connect to both Chile and the US. The

short film inside the gallery and the foosball table out in the lobby give visitors space to play and connect. The foosball table creates a place where we can gather and share our stories, just like the group of friends in the film. Coming together around a familiar, shared activity, like soccer, can build connections that make any place feel like home.

HOW MUCH: Daily MAH Admission: \$10 General, \$8 students, Free for MAH Members. Free on First Fridays.

WHERE: [Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History](#), 705 Front St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

[PHOTOS](#)

RELATED EVENTS

Save the date:

Thursday, January 17th, 2019 - Artist Talk with Rodrigo

More information coming soon.

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