



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at USC hosts celebration of
Catholic faith and street art in Orange County**

The second installment of popular IACS series will explore the influences of Catholicism and the presence of the Virgin Mary in urban art.

COSTA MESA, CALIF., October 8, 2022 — The influences of Catholic faith and spirituality on street art will be on display in Orange County on Sunday, Oct. 23.

Hosted by the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at USC (IACS), “Guadalupe: Holy Art in the Streets” will feature renowned muralist Fabian Debora in conversation with Lisa Pon, Ph.D., professor of art history at the University of Southern California.

“Guadalupe: Holy Art in the Streets” is the second installment of the popular IACS event series focusing on Catholicism and street art. In April, [IACS hosted conversations](#) at the USC Fisher Museum of Art with Debora, journalist Sam Quinones and Nancy Pineda-Madrid, Ph.D., the T. Marie Chilton Chair of Catholic Theology at Loyola Marymount University.

“Catholic images, especially of the Virgin Mary, play prominent roles in urban art in Orange County and across Southern California,” said IACS President Rev. Dorian Llywelyn, S.J. “We’re excited to highlight the important connection of faith, spirituality and art with an innovative event featuring two fascinating and high-profile speakers.”

Dr. Pon is a professor of Art History at the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, specializing in early modern European art, architecture and material culture. Her first book, “Raphael, Dürer and Marcantoni Raimondi: Copying and the Italian Renaissance Print” was published in 2004 by Yale University Press. In 2015, Cambridge University Press published her monograph, “Printed Icon: Forlì’s Madonna of the Fire.” She is co-editor or co-author of three additional volumes.

Debora is a prominent Chicano muralist, with Catholic faith and spirituality playing an important role in his work. Born in El Paso, Texas and raised in East Los Angeles, Debora is a former gang member who has overcome battles with poverty, drug addiction and incarceration. Today, he successfully channels his creative energy into public art.

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In May 2018, Debora unveiled [his mural of Our Lady of Guadalupe](#) at St. Anne Catholic School in Santa Ana. The mural is painted on the side of a building lining the K-8 school's parking lot entrance off Sycamore Street.

Along with being a sought-after muralist, printmaker and painter, Debora serves as executive director of the Homeboy Industries Art Academy, teaching art in Boyle Heights to formerly incarcerated teenagers and adults facing the same challenges he once did.

"Guadalupe: Holy Art in the Streets" will be held on Sunday, Oct. 23 at 2 p.m. at the [Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa](#).

The live in-person event is part of "[Guadalupe – At the Break of Dawn](#)," a multi-year collaboration between IACS and Loyola Marymount University exploring the academic, religious and cultural impact of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Learn more about "Guadalupe: Holy Art in the Streets" and RSVP for free at: iacs.usc.edu/holyartOC

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About the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at USC:

The Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at USC (IACS) is a global research center located at the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. IACS works to create dialogue, spark ideas and sustain academic research on Catholic thought, creative imagination and lived experience. Led by President Rev. Dorian Llywelyn, S.J. and Executive Director Becky Cerling, Ph.D., IACS supports scholars and artists, produces books, hosts academic conferences and cultural events, and furthers the intellectual work of the Catholic Church.

Learn more at: iacs.usc.edu

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