



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at USC hosts celebration of Catholic faith and street art

“Guadalupe: Holy Art in the Streets of Los Angeles” will explore the spiritual and religious influences on urban art.

LOS ANGELES, APRIL 6, 2022 — The influences of Catholic faith and spirituality in street art will be on display at the University of Southern California on Sunday, April 10.

Hosted by the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at USC (IACS), “Guadalupe: Holy Art in the Streets of Los Angeles” will feature conversations with journalist Sam Quinones and muralist Fabian Debora moderated by Nancy Pineda-Madrid, Ph.D., the T. Marie Chilton Chair of Theology at Loyola Marymount University, and IACS President Rev. Dorian Llywelyn.

“This exciting event breaks new ground by exploring the fascinating intersection of spirituality and street art in our communities,” Rev. Llywelyn said. “We’re honored to welcome two high-profile speakers to USC to discuss the influence of Catholic faith, spirituality and the presence of the Virgin Mary in urban art across Los Angeles and Southern California.”

A bestselling author and former Los Angeles Times journalist, Quinones has spent the past decade reporting on the opioid and meth crisis in the U.S. As a side project, Quinones traveled across L.A. documenting graffiti and street murals depicting Our Lady of Guadalupe. His book “The Virgin of the American Dream: Guadalupe on the Walls of Los Angeles” is a photo essay spotlighting that work.

Quinones is also the author of “The Least of Us: True Tales of America and Hope in the Time of Fentanyl and Meth,” published in November by Bloomsbury Publishing. The book has earned widespread accolades, including being named an Amazon editor’s pick for best nonfiction and a finalist for the 2021 Nonfiction Award from the National Book Critics Circle.

Debora was born in El Paso, Texas and grew up in East L.A. A former gang member who has overcome battles with poverty, drug addiction and incarceration, Debora successfully channeled his creative energy into art. Today he’s a prominent Chicano muralist, with Catholic faith and spirituality playing an important role in his work.

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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 of Los Angeles” will be held on Sunday, April 10 at 3 p.m. at the USC Fisher Museum of Art. 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 of Los Angeles” and RSVP for free at: iacs.usc.edu/holyart

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About the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at USC:

The Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at USC (IACS) is a globally-focused 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 creative 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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