

ANTEPASADOS: THOSE UNSEEN

MAY 5 - JUNE 4, 2023



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INTRODUCTION

Marya Osucha, Exhibition Curator

We are so delighted to inaugurate our new art space, dubbed Switchboard Gallery in a nod to the building's former life as the Pacific Bell Telephone Company, with this meaningful show. Including so many sculptural works allows us to showcase and explore the expanded square footage this space has to offer. Appropriately, this show encourages visitors to reflect on our connections to the past, how we are formed and informed by the experiences of our ancestors, and how we navigate the intricacies of our relationships with other people. Taking up residence in this new space at 525 Main Street marks a new step in our organization's path, and we want to keep at the fore the importance of our community connectivity.

We've had the pleasure to foster an ongoing partnership with Sigrid Benson over the past four years. She's been a core organizer for two exhibitions that were hosted in Arts and Culture's Confidence Gallery, our former home. Those community-curated exhibitions featured the works of many artists, and for those, Benson occupied a more administrative role. We are excited to be showcasing Benson's own creative works this time around. Her print work is at once joyful and self-reflexive, evoking a sort of archetypal immediacy – something linking us to an essential experience of what it means to be human.

It was Benson that connected us with Marisa Sayago and her incredible body of work. Sayago serves as Chair of the Visual Art Department at Folsom Lake College, while maintaining her practice as a painter, printmaker, and sculptor. Her work as a local arts educator reverberates throughout our community, as she joyfully encourages community college students' artistic explorations. It was clear in my dialogue with Sayago and Benson the sense of community they'd found in each other. I love to see the way they encourage each other's art practice and I hope to somehow capture that and foster that energy through this show, expanding it beyond these two fantastic creatives.

Antepasados: Those Unseen contains works that range from dark to celebratory, exploring the range of human experience. Death, birth, love, loss, embodiment, spirit – these are all present here in this show and beyond.



Sigrid Benson
Las Fuerzas Se Unen
2022, Monotype

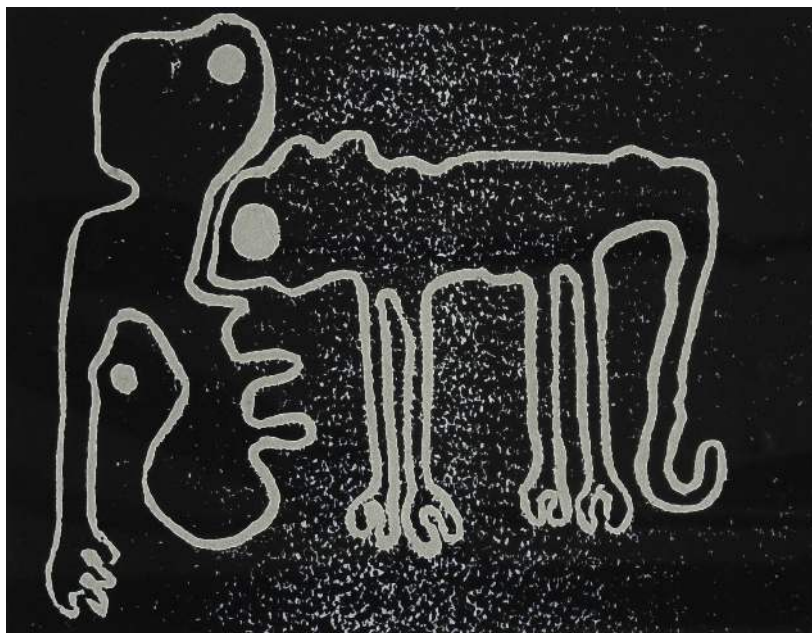
SIGRID BENSON

Sigrid Benson is an Argentine mixed media artist whose work is grounded in the teachings of her Elders. The print series on display includes a collagraph, linocuts and monotypes derived from a concerted engagement with the energetic forces that surround us all. Manifest as a personal iconography including images of hands, ribcages, trees, serpents and the number three, the artist makes visible the subtle guidance of her ancestors and the teachers whom she has had the privilege of encountering.

Born to a hemispheric perspective, Sigrids first years were spent between La Plata, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Republica Argentina, su tierra natal y el dulce guadal de Las Piedritas, hogar de sus abuelos maternos en Los Cisnes, Cordoba. Alli conocio el amor de las Abuelas, la labor de los Abuelos y las caricias del horizonte circundante.

Traida a este lugar en el 1976, recuerda la primera vez que alzo la mirada al cielo y reconoció a Las Tres Marías de su cielo pampero. *Desde entonces, Ellas han siempre sido mi ancla, uniendo estas tierras lejanas, a la vez que me unen al ciclo de generaciones de mujeres que me preceden. Son un pasaje.*

In this series, Sigrid reflects on the gifts of time and wisdom that our Elders and Antepasados have to share with us. The monotype process lends itself to playful experimentation and delightful surprises as the participant follows the story's lead and latent concepts are brought into time. Ultimately, the images are reminders that there is energy all around us.



MARISA SAYAGO

Artist above all else, Sayago's work has been referred to as metaphors for the human condition. It communicates a strong influence from her native Argentina. Her experiences are more of an international scope. With an MFA from the University of North Texas, she was a sculpture apprentice to Alfredo Cantarutti in Cordoba, Argentina.

Sayago's works are found in private and public collections throughout the United States, South America, and Europe, including the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach, CA.

Professor Sayago has been a full-time instructor at Folsom Lake College (FLC) for over 20 years, a founding faculty of Folsom Lake College, and serves as the Department Chair for the Visual Arts Department at FLC.

ARTIST STATEMENT

"In my works, I deal with three main issues, all of which are explored through the use of the human figure. The issues are relationships, the first being the relationship of an individual with his or her inner self and the struggles he or she encounter therein. The second issue is the relationship between an individual and society, the interactions between them and how this affects the individual specifically. The third is the relationship between two people. All these issues or views are, of course, interrelated.

The human figure to me is the most effective means of expressing myself on these matters because I believe the viewer can easily relate to the works. It is very direct since all humans understand body language and everyone has had common experiences in life.

My work captures a moment in time and explores the subject's psychological state. I exaggerate proportions, poses, and colors to achieve expression. I'm not interested in recreating the physical world; instead I deliberately provoke the viewer to reconcile the physical world and the inner one. Through my work, I hope to remind the viewer that all of us are all bound by the same fears, loves, and experiences."

-M. Sayago

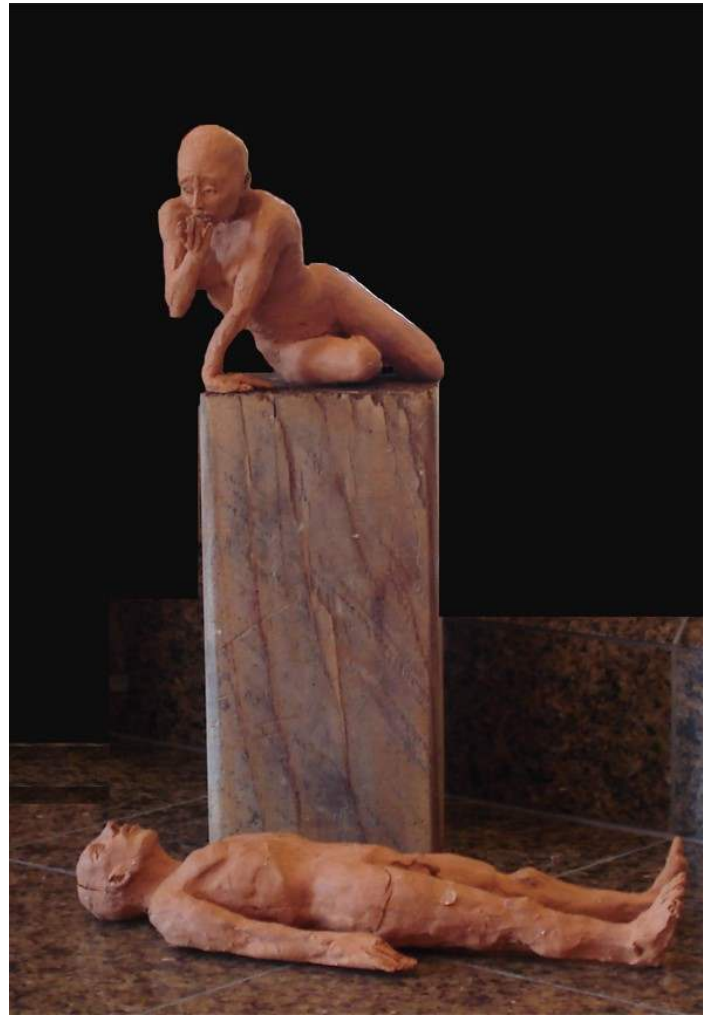
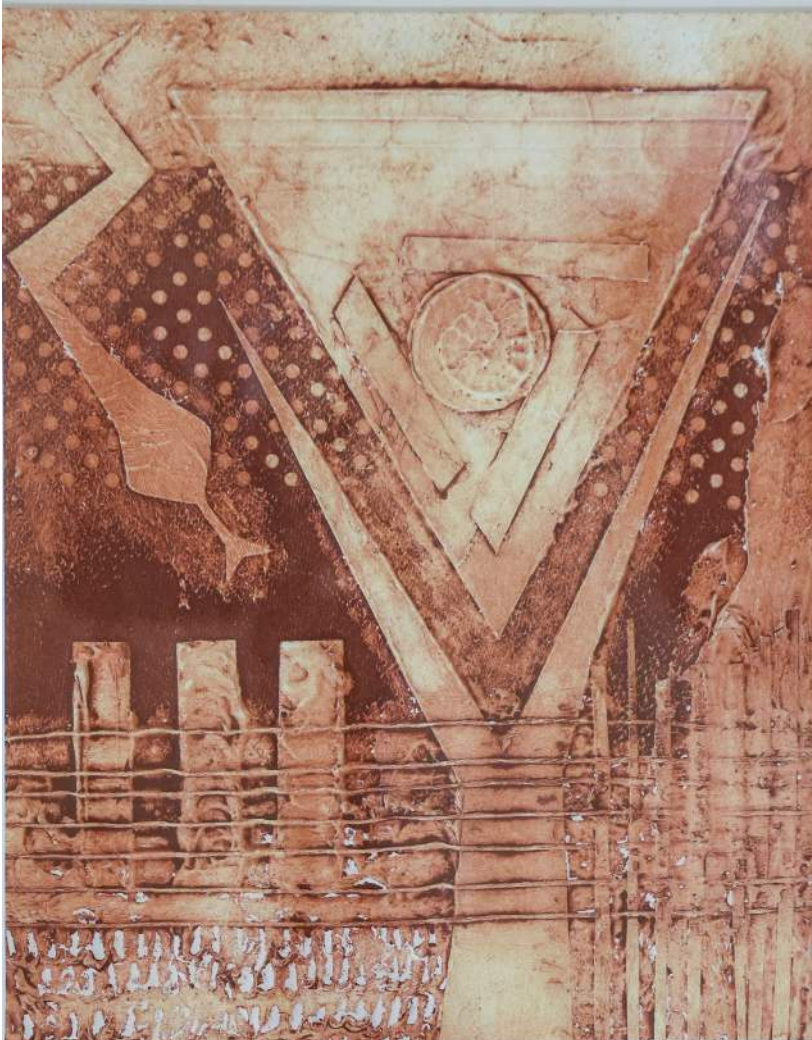


Marisa Sayago
Maldito, 2009
Acrylic on canvas



Sigrid Benson
Curandereando, 2022
Monotype

Marisa Sayago
La Caida, 1999
Terracotta



Sigrid Benson
Gathering, 2021
Collograph



Sigrid Benson
Running Backwards 4, 2020
Linocut



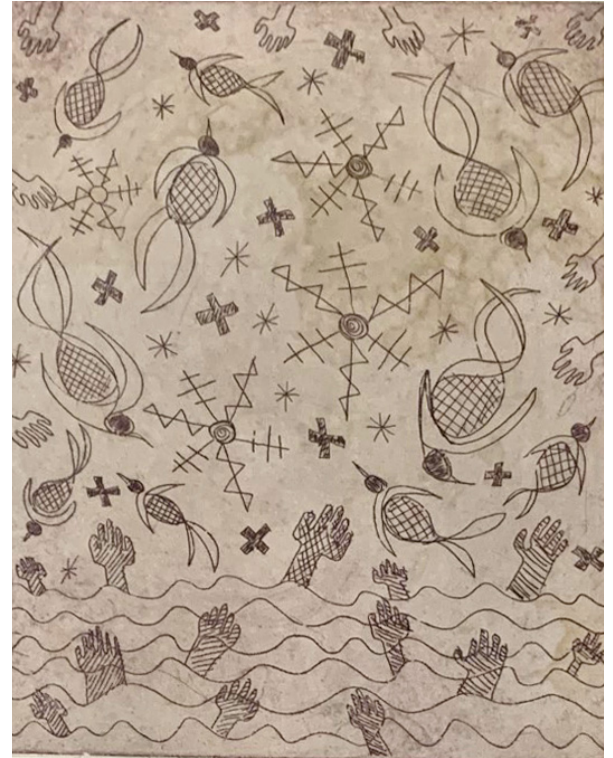
Marisa Sayago
Barrera, 1998
Terracotta



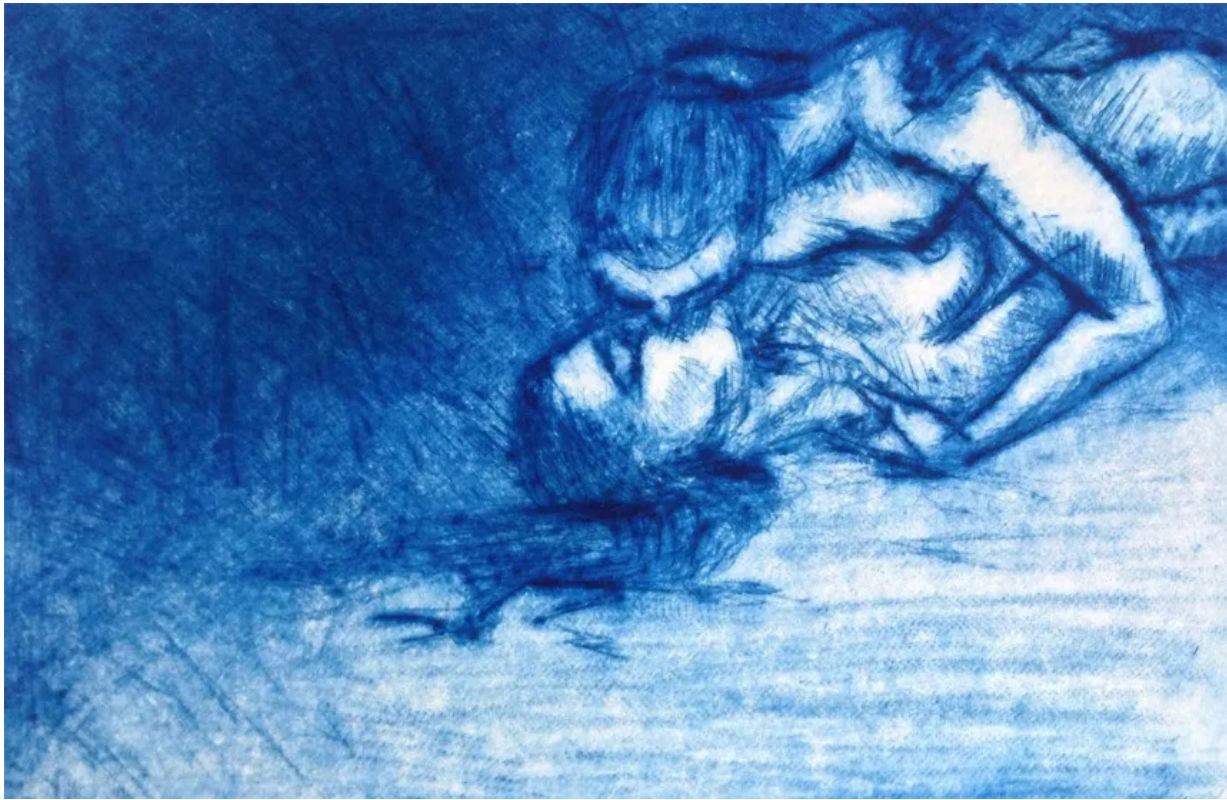
Sigrid Benson
Bienvenidos, 2020
Monotype



Marisa Sayago
Hija Mia, 2008
Ceramic



Sigrid Benson
Rio de La Plata, Yerba Mate, 2022
Drypoint



Marisa Sayago
Enamorados, 1996
Drypoint and
mezzotint



Sigrid Benson
Tres Marias 2, 2021
Linocut



Sigrid Benson, *Tres Marias 3*, 2021, Linocut

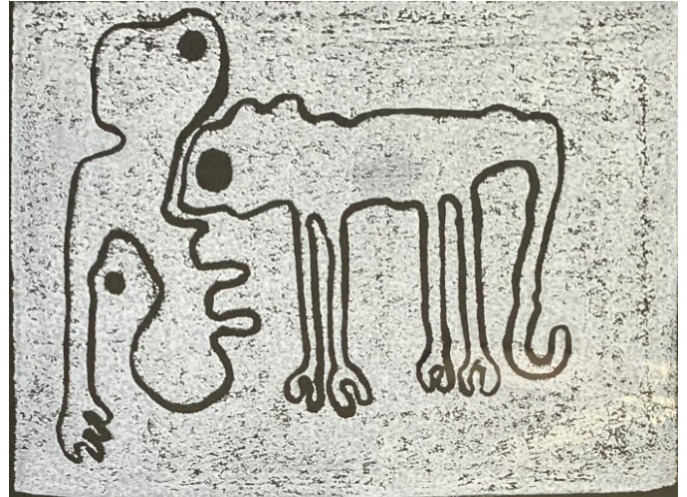


Sigrid Benson, *Tres Marias 1*, 2021, Linocut



Sigrid Benson
Llegada, 2020
Monotype

Sigrid Benson
Antepasados, 2021
Linocut



Sigrid Benson
Running Backwards 3, 2020
Linocut



Marisa Sayago
Those Unseen, 1993
Etching and aquatint

Sigrid Benson
There is Energy All Around Us, 2022
Monotype

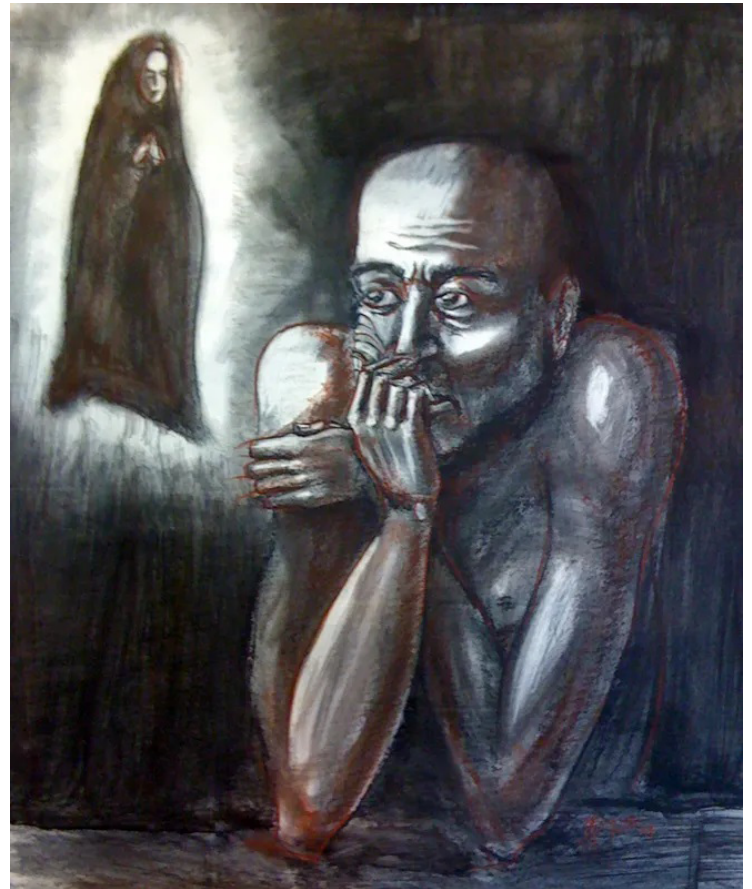


Sigrid Benson
Mano y Obra, 2022
Monotype

Marisa Sayago
A & E, 2010
Ceramic



Sigrid Benson, *Manomadre, a la Poupee*, 2021
Drypoint



Marisa Sayago
Reza por Nosotros, 2009
Charcoal and conte crayon on paper

Sigrid Benson
Pente, 2022
Monotype



Sigrid Benson
Paz y Alegria, 2022
Monotype



Arts and Culture El Dorado's mission to promote, connect, and empower arts and culture throughout the county is achieved by targeted programs and services, a vibrant gallery exhibition series, and a focus on initiatives which support and sustain the cultural life of the region.

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Very special thanks to Terry Zeller,
Director of Community Services for the City of Placerville

Antepasados: Those Unseen is supported in part by
California Arts Council, and the City of Placerville







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