Latino/a are both terms first coined in Europe and the US that refer to individuals from Mexico, Central and South America, and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean. These terms are highly problematic, both in connection to their colonial origin and in how they enforce a perceived singular stereotype and narrative on culturally vastly different countries and communities, misrepresenting people from all these places as sharing a common identity and ethnicity. More recently, the term ‘Latinx’ is becoming increasingly popular as a gender neutral alternative that implies a higher degree of inclusivity of diverse communities and peoples.

Mundo Latinx (Latinx World) brings together the work of visual artists who raise questions around representation and identity to reveal some of the struggles for visibility, empowerment and justice within current social, political, economic and cultural structures. The selection of works challenges dominant stereotypes constructed through how people look, dress and behave, by showing the processes of affirming, transforming and reinventing heritage and identity. It puts emphasis on works that deal with underrepresented communities, including LGBTQI+, black and indigenous communities, human rights activism and workers’ rights.

Including a wide range of media such as film, photography and illustration, as well as textile and fashion design, Mundo Latinx also highlights the permeability of borders, the continual movement of people, which stimulates the formation of new ideas and identities, as well as large diaspora communities. Mundo Latinx opens amidst a challenging global political climate, when addressing identity politics and diverse representation, and enabling untold stories to be told, are particularly pertinent and important.
Peruvian fashion designer and scholar Lucía Cuba is focused on issues of gender, biopolitics, health, activism, education and the study of non-Western fashion systems. Within her practice, Cuba views fashion design and the exploration of garments and other wearable forms as performative and political devices, thus broadening our understanding of the role of design objects from purely functional, commercial or aesthetic considerations, to social, ethical and political perspectives.

Artículo 6: Narratives of Gender, Strength and Politics is a design and activism project that was created to raise awareness about the cases of forced sterilisation that took place between 1996 and 2000, during the government of Alberto Fujimori in Peru. The title of this ongoing project refers to an article within the General Health Law of Peru, which establishes that ‘all persons have the right to choose freely the contraceptive method they prefer, and to receive appropriate information on the methods available and the risks’. The project highlights the discriminatory application of this article, which was mainly exercised on women in indigenous communities, who were purposefully given incorrect information on the procedures. The project underlines the reinforced paradigmatic distance between people and this right, particularly at a time when over 16% of the population were non-Spanish speaking.

Artículo 6 aims to generate dialogues around human and women’s rights, and to explore different narratives related to the cases through a series of 12 ‘actions’, which have manifested both locally and internationally in a wide range of outcomes, including interviews with the women affected, a collection of garments shown at New York Fashion Week and a photo essay, as well as an exhibition, conference and workshop. All of these aim to highlight the potential of garments as agents of knowledge to raise awareness, and impact and intervene in different social contexts, as well as their ability to generate and enable further discussions. In the ‘action’ displayed within the exhibition, La Espera/The Waiting, Cuba depicts these women as faceless and without a voice, masked by their hair, in the style traditionally associated with these indigenous communities. The garments are inspired by Andean ‘polleras’ or skirts with printed text, in reference to the uniformity and militarisation of public policy.
EL ARTÍCULO 6, COTTON CANVAS BLOUSE AND SKIRT, 2012

LA ESPERA/THE WAITING, PRINTED VINYL, 2013

ARTÍCULO 6: NARRATIVES OF GENDER, STRENGTH AND POLITICS, 4’26”, 2012

LA ESPERA/THE WAITING, GICLÉE PRINT, 2013

WE HAVE WOKEN UP, 5’53”, 2011

ALL FROM THE SERIES ARTÍCULO 6: NARRATIVES OF GENDER, STRENGTH AND POLITICS COURTESY OF THE ARTIST.

CREDITS

LA ESPERA/THE WAITING, 2013
Photography: Erasmo Wong
Production and Art Direction: Lucía Cuba
Performers: Jessica Rojas, Pilar Trujillo, Flor Vergara, Nataly Zúñiga

ARTÍCULO 6: NARRATIVES OF GENDER, STRENGTH AND POLITICS
Video: Eduardo Delgado
Art Direction: Lucía Cuba
Performer: Carla Rincón

WE HAVE WOKEN UP
Video: Mauricio Delfin
Interviewer: Lucía Cuba
Interviewees: Aurelia Paccohuanca and Micaela Flores
EVENTS
For a full schedule of accompanying events please visit fashionspacegallery.com/events

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White Line Projects

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Visitors with special access requirements should advise the college in advance of the event.

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