

January 14, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Presented by FOR-SITE in partnership with Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture and the Presidio Nursery, **Kija Lucas at The Guardhouse** opens on **Saturday, January 14, 2023 with an outdoor reception from 12-3 p.m.**

FOR-SITE celebrates 20 years as a non-profit dedicated to presenting art about place, announcing **The Guardhouse Program** and unveiling the **inaugural installation by San Francisco Bay Area artist Kija Lucas.**

A debut of the artist's first wallpaper pattern and 13 new photographic works, FOR-SITE presents Kija Lucas at The Guardhouse, installed inside a former military guard station **at the main entrance to Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture** open to the public 24 hours a day from **January 14 through March 12, 2023.**



Viewable through the windows of **The Guardhouse**, this installation presents a new series of images surveying the biodiverse vegetation in the surrounding parklands and inviting viewers to consider their relationships to plants over time. Lucas highlights not only indigenous and introduced, non-indigenous botanical specimens, but also the tools and supplies used for plant propagation. Facilitated by staff at the **Presidio Nursery** who monitor and propagate threatened, rare and endangered seedlings in labs and greenhouses, Lucas's work offers a glimpse into habitat restoration efforts currently underway in parks throughout the Presidio and **Golden Gate National Recreation Area.**

The artist consulted with vegetation ecologists with the **Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy** and staff of the **Presidio Nursery**, where Lucas ultimately spent a period of two months capturing images with her digital camera and flatbed scanner. **The artist photographed threatened, rare, and**

endangered plants, brightly colorful protective gloves and plant markers, plant propagation containers, seed collection envelopes, and laminated signs used for communication between Presidio Nursery staff. Alongside these images, Lucas is presenting images highlighting non-indigenous botanicals commonly seen throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, which the artist collected herself from the yards of friend's and neighbor's homes.

Lucas's framed prints focus viewer attention on subjects such as seed collection envelopes and a sprig of **Franciscan manzanita, which is indigenous, federally protected, and endangered.** Her installation also features **imagery of introduced plants, which were placed here through human intervention. Imagery of English ivy and Himalayan blackberry resplendent on the interior walls** mimicks how these vines can overtake fences, buildings, and large swaths of land. **These plants, along with blue gum eucalyptus, fennel, and ice plant, suggest "home" to the artist and many of us familiar with the San Francisco Bay Area.** Through her documentation, Lucas encourages us to reckon with a time-stamped encapsulation of vegetation that can be observed here in the parks and what environmental stewardship in our time might look like on a longer timeline.

About FOR-SITE

Established in 2003 by Founding Executive Director & Chief Curator Cheryl Haines, **FOR-SITE** is dedicated to the creation, understanding and presentation of art about place. Highly acclaimed, major FOR-SITE projects include: *Lands End* at the former Cliff House (2022-2023), *Sanctuary* (2017-2018); *Home Land Security* (2016); *@Large: Ai Weiwei on Alcatraz* (2014-2015); *International Orange* (2012), a group show honoring the 75th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge; and land-art installations by Andy Goldsworthy currently on view in the Presidio, including *Spire* (2008) and *Wood Line* (2011).

About The Guardhouse Program

FOR-SITE's **The Guardhouse Program** is designed to support three selected artists annually, each of whom will activate the former military guard station with a temporary art installation responding to the natural and cultural significance of the site and its surrounding area. FOR-SITE will announce an open call for proposals shortly.

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art about place

San Francisco Bay Area artist **Kija Lucas** uses photography to explore ideas of home, heritage, and inheritance. She is interested in how ideas are passed down and seemingly inconsequential moments create changes that last generations. Lucas has exhibited her work at SF Camerawork, Oakland Museum of California and Headlands Center for the Arts, and she has been an artist in residence at Montalvo Arts Center, Recology San Francisco, and The Wassaic Project. She received her BFA in Photography from the San Francisco Art Institute and her MFA in Studio Art from Mills College.

Kija Lucas at The Guardhouse is presented by FOR-SITE (for-site.org) in partnership with Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture (fortmason.org) and the Presidio Nursery (presidionursery.gov).

The Presidio Nursery is a program of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (parksconservancy.org) in conjunction with the National Park Service (nps.gov) and Presidio Trust (presidio.gov). The Guardhouse Program is made possible thanks to generous support from the ARB Fund.

About Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture (FMCAC)

A decommissioned military installation converted into a nonprofit cultural center, FMCAC hosts a lively mix of arts, educational, and cultural programming. Each year FMCAC provides more than \$2 million in support to local arts organizations, enabling groups to produce diverse and innovative artworks at the historic waterfront campus. With a four-decade history as an arts and culture destination, FMCAC is now focused on reinvigorating its programming and amenities to better engage the evolving Bay Area creative community. Central to this new vision is the commissioning and presentation of adventurous and unconventional artworks best realized in nontraditional or historical settings.

IMAGE: Installation view of **Kija Lucas at The Guardhouse**, January 14 - March 12, 2023, presented by FOR-SITE; image courtesy of the artist and FOR-SITE; photo credit: Kija Lucas

FOR CALENDAR LISTINGS:

Installation dates: Saturday, January 14 - Saturday, March 12, 2023

Location: The Guardhouse, Fort Mason Center, 2 Marina Blvd., San Francisco, CA 94123

Hours: Open daily, 24 hours a day, viewable through the windows

Admission: Free

Information: for-site.org

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