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## Alejandro G. Iñárritu's Academy Award®-Winning Virtual Reality Exhibition *CARNE y ARENA (Virtually present, Physically invisible)* to Open in Washington, D.C.

The groundbreaking work—presented by the Emerson Collective,  
in association with Fondazione Prada and LACMA—  
explores the human condition of refugees and immigrants

*The Phillips Collection and Atlas Performing Arts Center to serve as  
CARNE y ARENA D.C. community partners*

**WASHINGTON, D.C., March 26, 2018**—Academy Award®-winning director Alejandro G. Iñárritu's virtual reality installation *CARNE y ARENA (Virtually present, Physically invisible)* will be presented in **Washington, D.C.** by the **Emerson Collective**, in association with **Fondazione Prada** and the **Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)**. **The Phillips Collection** and **Atlas Performing Arts Center** will serve as community partners for the D.C. exhibition opening on **Monday, March 26**.



CARNE y ARENA, 2017. A user in the experience, Photo credit: Emmanuel Lubezki

After a five-year process of developing its elevated content and technology through ILMxLAB, *CARNE y ARENA* premiered in May of last year at the **70<sup>th</sup> Cannes Film Festival**, as its first virtual reality project to be included in the Official Selection, before traveling to **Fondazione Prada** in Milan, the **Tlatelolco University Cultural Center** in Mexico City and LACMA.

*CARNE y ARENA* is a six-and-a-half-minute solo experience based on true accounts from Central American

and Mexican refugees. Through state-of-the-art technology, visitors to *CARNE y ARENA* will walk in a vast space and live a fragment of a refugee's personal journey.

**Open to the public with no admission fee** (advance [registration](#) required), the project reunites frequent collaborators Iñárritu and three-time **Academy Award®-winning cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki**, alongside **producer Mary Parent** and **ILMxLAB**.

“During the past five years in which this project has been growing in my mind, I had the privilege of meeting and interviewing many Mexican and Central American refugees,” **Iñárritu** said. “Their life stories haunted me, so I invited some of them to collaborate with me on the project. My intention was to experiment with VR technology to explore the human condition in an attempt to break the dictatorship of the frame—within which things are just observed—and claim the space to allow the visitor to go through a direct experience walking in the immigrants’ feet, under their skin, and into their hearts.”

In 2017, Iñárritu was presented a special Oscar® for *CARNE y ARENA*, recognized by the Academy as an exceptional storytelling experience.

“Alejandro’s visionary works have sparked our imaginations and broadened our perspectives,” said **Michael Govan, LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director**. “Using this immersive technology, he has gone beyond the confines of the cinematic screen to create an entirely new narrative art form. And while the images immediately depicted in Alejandro’s immersive artwork conjure the border between the U.S. and Mexico, the real subject of the work is larger: the many times in history and art history that borders have become places of conflict and opportunity, and the many people whose identities have been lost to history.”

The *CARNE y ARENA* presenters are inviting the D.C. community, including arts and cultural organizations, museums, universities and neighborhood associations by inviting artists, students, educators, arts administrators and local business owners, to be among the first to experience this important work.

Located in the H Street Northeast corridor, *CARNE y ARENA* is proud to partner with the **Atlas Center for Performing Arts** on community outreach. Additionally, programming around *CARNE y ARENA* will include a panel discussion with Iñárritu hosted by **The Phillips Collection** this spring. Check the [website](#) for future programming and event updates.

“More than a film, *CARNE y ARENA* is a feat of ingenuity, and a catalyst for conversation about the power of storytelling through art,” adds **Dorothy Kosinki, Director of The Phillips Collection**. “The Phillips Collection has a long history of engagement on the theme of migration and is honored to collaborate on this important piece.”

“The Atlas Performing Arts Center stands as a cultural icon on H Street, NE in the District of Columbia. As an institution that believes in the power and impact that art can have on our society, culture and world, it is important for us to support such endeavors as *CARNE y ARENA*,” said **Douglas Yeuell, Executive Director of Atlas Performing Arts Center**.

Tickets are available for *CARNE y ARENA* at [www.carneyarenadc.com](http://www.carneyarenadc.com) (tickets are not available on-site). The location is 1611 Benning Road NE, Washington D.C., 20002.

## **ABOUT THE DIRECTOR**

Five-time Academy Award®-winner Alejandro G. Iñárritu is a Mexican film director, producer, and screenwriter. In 2006, he became the first Mexican director to be nominated for the Academy Award for Best Director and the Directors Guild of America Award for Outstanding Directing for [Babel](#). In 2015, he won three Academy Awards for [Best Picture](#), Best Director, and [Best Original Screenplay](#) for Birdman. The following year, he won a second Academy Award for Best Director for [The Revenant](#), making him the third director to win back to back Academy Awards, and the first since [1950](#). Additionally, Iñárritu was awarded a Special Achievement Academy Award for CARNE y ARENA in [2017](#).

## **ABOUT EMMANUEL LUBEZKI**

Emmanuel Lubezki is one of the most innovative cinematographers known for his groundbreaking uses of natural lighting and continuous uninterrupted shots. With CARNE y ARENA, Lubezki continues to push technological boundaries and help redefine the cinematic future. Lubezki became the first cinematographer to win three consecutive Academy Awards for his work in Alfonso Cuarón's Gravity (2014) and Alejandro G. Iñárritu's Birdman (2015) and The Revenant (2016). Lubezki is a frequent collaborator of Cuarón, Iñárritu, and Terrence Malick and has lensed such films as Malick's Tree of Life and The New World and Cuarón's Children of Men, Y Tu Mama Tambien and A Little Princess. Other film credits include Tim Burton's Sleepy Hollow, Michael Mann's Ali and Rodrigo Garcia's Last Days in the Desert. In addition to eight Academy award nominations, Lubezki is the recipient of five ASC Awards, four BAFTA Awards, and the 2016 Royal Photographic Society Lumière Award for major achievement in cinematography.

## **ABOUT LEGENDARY ENTERTAINMENT**

Legendary Entertainment is a leading media company with film (Legendary Pictures), television and digital (Legendary Television and Digital Media) and comics (Legendary Comics) divisions dedicated to owning, producing and delivering content to worldwide audiences. Legendary has built a library of marquee media properties and has established itself as a trusted brand which consistently delivers high-quality, commercial entertainment including some of the world's most popular intellectual property. To learn more visit: [www.legendary.com](http://www.legendary.com).

## **ABOUT EMERSON COLLECTIVE**

[Emerson Collective](#) is an organization dedicated to removing barriers to opportunity so people can live to their full potential. Established and led by Laurene Powell Jobs, Emerson Collective centers its work on education, immigration reform, the environment and other social justice initiatives. They use a wide range of tools and strategies—partnering with entrepreneurs and experts, parents and policymakers, advocates and administrators—to develop and execute innovative solutions that will spur change and promote equality.

## **ABOUT THE PHILLIPS COLLECTION**

[The Phillips Collection](#), America's first museum of Modern art, presents one of the world's most distinguished Impressionist and American Modern art collections. Including paintings by Renoir and Rothko, Bonnard and O'Keeffe, van Gogh, Diebenkorn, Daumier and Lawrence, among others, the museum continues to actively collect new acquisitions, many by contemporary artists such as Wolfgang Laib, Whitfield Lovell, and Leo

Villareal. Its distinctive building combines extensive new galleries with the former home of its founder, Duncan Phillips. The Phillips's impact spreads nationally and internationally through its highly distinguished special exhibitions, programs, and events that catalyze dialogue surrounding continuity between art of the past and present. Among the Phillips's esteemed programs are its award-winning education programs for K-12 teachers, students, and adults, well established Phillips Music series and sell-out Phillips after 5 events. The museum contributes to the art conversation on a global scale with its events like Conversations with Artists and the International Forum. The Phillips Collection values its community partnerships with The University of Maryland and THEARC that act as the museum's nexus for academic work, scholarly exchange, and interdisciplinary collaborations. The Phillips Collection is a private, non-government museum, supported primarily by donations.

#### **ABOUT THE ATLAS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

The [Atlas Performing Arts Center](#) is an historic and cultural anchor in the H Street, Northeast community of Washington, D.C. The Atlas fosters and presents stellar art in theatre, dance, music, vocal and choral work, spoken word, and more. Our mission is to bring people together through the arts to expand the reach and strengthen the bonds of our community. We provide shared space in a creative environment that inspires exceptional performances, events, and initiatives that enlighten, entertain, and reflect the best of the arts and our humanity. As the catalyst for neighborhood growth and change, the Atlas continues to play a major role in the regional creative economy and is where the arts, culture, and connection happen on H Street.

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