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*Leyla Cardenas, Permutations (Study #2) [detail view], 2014, Hand-cut glicée prints on demolition debris, Variable dimensions, Courtesy of the Artist, Photo by Arturo Sánchez*

***Leyla Cárdenas: Scarcity***

***First Bay Area Solo Exhibition for International Artist***

***November 15, 2014 — January 31, 2015***

***Opening Reception***

***Friday, November 14, 6pm-8pm***

***All Welcome***

**San Jose, CA** -- The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) is pleased to present the first Bay Area exhibition by Colombia-based artist Leyla Cárdenas. Known for creating not only site-specific but also city-specific work, Cárdenas will create an installation at the ICA comprised of plaster impressions of historic San Jose buildings located around Market Street that will be displayed on the gallery walls and floor. Typically using architectural elements and objects from various old buildings, Cárdenas' work serves as a reflection on what life once was for the people who lived and worked in the spaces she chooses to explore. Focusing on fragility and a sense of loss, her imaginative collection of

*ruins serves as a recollection of the past and contemplation of the present.*

*Inspired by architectural surroundings, Cárdenas creates installations that incorporate images of and tangible materials from buildings that once served as distinct cultural or historical significance to a community. In previous projects, she has accumulated, dismantled, and reassembled fragments, from old photographs to aged furniture to parts of building façades. She has also taken physical remnants from demolished and vacant buildings, suspending the pieces from the ceiling and arranging them on pins precariously balanced on the floor. More recently, she cut, carved, and scraped architectural “drawings” into a gallery wall. Similar to an archeological exploration of the past, her work reflects on the memory and the absence of a political, social, and economical presence once associated with a building.*

*ICA Curator Donna Napper states of Cárdenas’ work, “Ever since I came across Leyla Cárdenas during her MFA show in Los Angeles, I have been fortunate to watch her develop her work and her career beyond her own regional borders. I’m not only thrilled for the ICA to feature Cárdenas in her first Northern California solo show, but also for our first solo show by an artist born, raised, and based outside the U.S.”*

*Cárdenas was born and raised in Bogotá, Colombia where she presently lives and is a professor at the Universidad de los Andes. She earned her MFA from UCLA in 2004 and had her United States-debut solo exhibition in Los Angeles in 2006. Since then, her work has been shown at international art fairs such as Frieze New York, Art Positions/Art Basel Miami Beach, ARCO Madrid, and ArtBo Bogotá. In addition to exhibiting regularly throughout Colombia, she recently created installations at Palais de Tokyo in Paris, France; Dorsky Gallery in New York; and Contemporary Art Museum, Raleigh, North Carolina. Her work has been reviewed in publications such as ArtNexus magazine, The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, LA Weekly, and The Stranger-Seattle.*



Leyla Cardenas, *Permutations* (Study #3), 2014, Hand-cut glicée prints on demolition debris, Variable dimensions, Courtesy of the Artist, Photo by Arturo Sánchez