



**For Immediate Release**

**Subject: Ventura County Arts Council Ask the Artist Fundraiser**

**Contact: Wendy Osher at 412-657-3058 or [wendy.osher@gmail.com](mailto:wendy.osher@gmail.com)**

We invite the public to **ASK THE ARTIST**, a special online fundraiser event **May 15, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.** Talk with four Ventura County artists—Carlos Grasso of Oak View, Josiah Guzik of Ventura, Belen Islas of Simi Valley and Ksenia McEuen of Ojai—about their artwork reflecting recent hardships and reckonings. Haven't seen the show yet? Check it out in the socially distanced exhibition, *REFLECT 2020*, installed in **storefront windows at 1985 S. Victoria Ave. Ventura, CA 93003.**

**For more information and tickets, go to [vcartscouncil.org](http://vcartscouncil.org).**

The registration fee to enter the online event is \$15 for individuals or families. Additional donations are encouraged and can be made at [vcartscouncil.org/donate](http://vcartscouncil.org/donate). Exciting art works by local artists will be offered in gratitude for your generous donations to keep programs like this, as well as school arts, arts and youth justice, and our literary, music, and dance arts programs alive and well in Ventura County. Hard times always hit the arts hard. But the arts are also what we need to restart the creative economy and nurture resilience, curiosity and empathy.



*NICHOS VOLANTES* by Josiah Guzik

The four artists featured in the ***REFLECT 2020*** exhibition were selected by a jury of arts professionals. Their work ranges from fanciful cabinetry, immersive color experience, and paper collage to mixed media installation. The show reflects a wide range of cultural backgrounds and responses to the year 2020. The windows are lit after dark and for a very special experience; Grasso's *Colorspace* comes alive, transforming painted and shredded canvas into ever shifting color fields.

Bring a friend and use our [downloadable Treasure Hunt](#), designed to enrich the viewing experience for families, adults and children of all ages. *Treasure Hunt: Ways to Wonder* is available on the Ventura County Arts Council [website](#). It is the perfect way to generate great questions for the artists! Don't miss this unique opportunity to talk with the artists and show your support for the Ventura County arts community.

### **About the Ventura County Arts Council**

The Ventura County Arts Council (VCAC) advances the arts in Ventura County by providing arts education and opportunities in schools and other creative settings, by advocating for local artists and arts organizations, and by creating partnerships among artists, arts supporters, businesses, foundations and county organizations. It embraces diversity and equity, striving to reach low income and marginalized communities of color with programs that offer equal access to the arts.

VCAC was formed and incorporated as an independent 501(c)3 non-profit arts organization in 1997. It has been designated by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors as the local partner of the California Arts Council (CAC), with a mandate to serve the county's citizens in partnership with CAC.