



Above: Jimena Vergara-Sanz working in the Upfront Gallery during her residency (image courtesy of Danny Peña).

Inside, l-r: Works from community workshops led by Jimena Vergara-Sanz (image courtesy of Danny Peña); Jimena Vergara-Sanz, *Antique Lull*; Jimena Vergara-Sanz, *The Lady with Mustache and Fangs*.

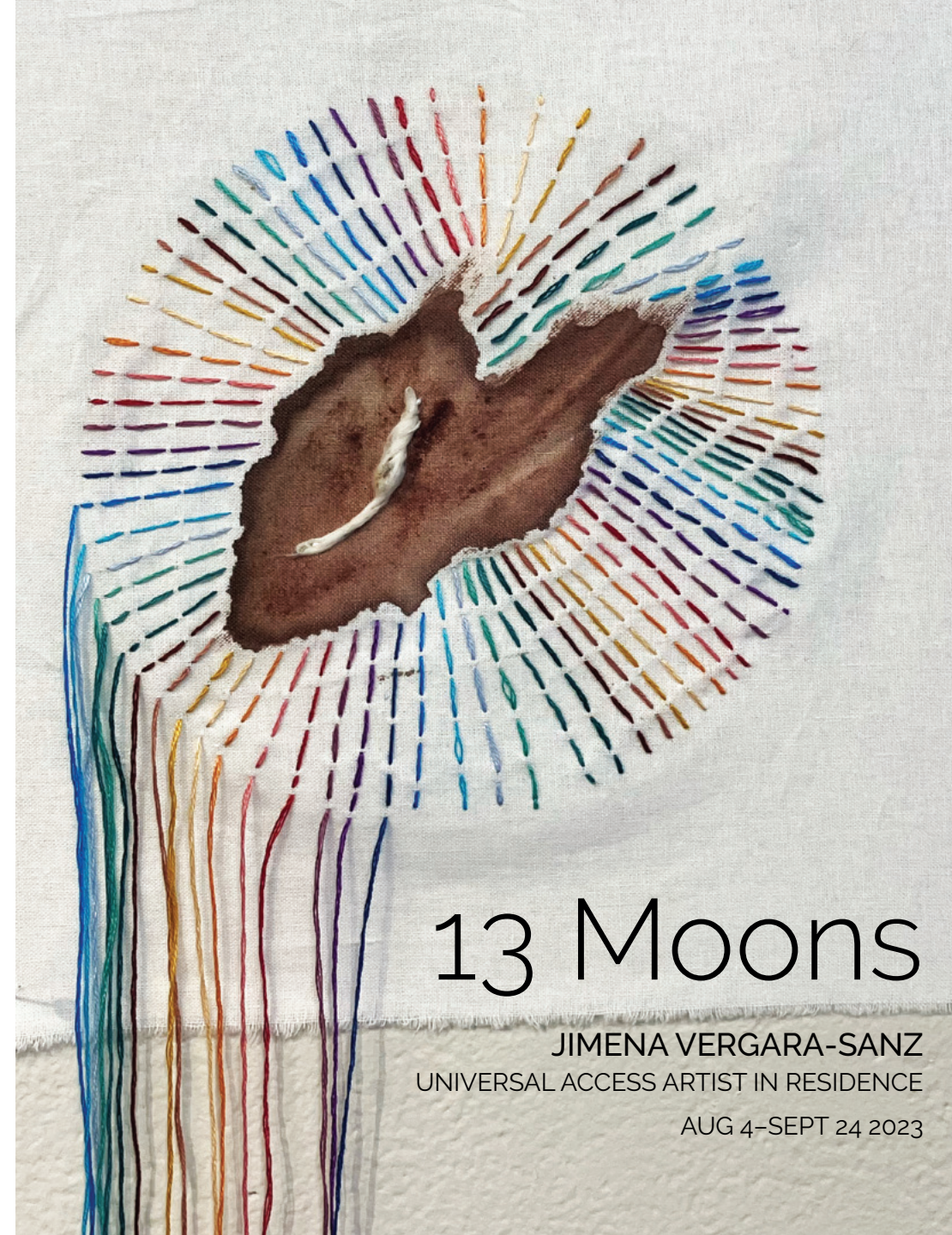
RELATED PROGRAMMING

- AUG 19 Summer Celebration
- AUG 25 HiiiContrast: Late Night in the Gallery
- SEPT 1 First Friday
- SEPT 8 Art Break Curator Tour
- SEPT 10 Sunday Funday: Femme Fête
- SEPT 14 Women Artists: How Female Identity Impacts Our Work Panel Discussion
- SEPT 20 Universal Access Sensory Night
- SEPT 28 Artist Happy Hour



Scan for complete Artspace Calendar

Cover: Jimena Vergara-Sanz, *Womb-heart Threading*, detail



13 Moons

JIMENA VERGARA-SANZ
UNIVERSAL ACCESS ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

AUG 4–SEPT 24 2023

artspace 201 E Davie St. Raleigh, NC • artspacenc.org



Raleigh Arts



unitedarts council



North Carolina Arts Council

Artspace is supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; United Arts Council of Raleigh + Wake County and funded in part by the City of Raleigh based on recommendations of the Raleigh Arts Commission.

13 Moons

What would be possible if we embraced our bodies fully without shame or disgust?

Through her embroidered art, Universal Access Artist in Residence, Jimena Vergara-Sanz attempts to answer this question and invites participants to join her in the process. *13 Moons* began as Vergara-Sanz's personal quest for physical healing after an abnormal uterine hemorrhage nearly resulted in a hysterectomy. During this period of physical and emotional trauma, she turned to traditional Colombian indigenous rituals to more fully understand the ways that women across cultures and time have perceived their menstrual cycle as a source of power and connection to the earth. Vergara-Sanz found that through embracing, celebrating, and utilizing the blood that is a natural part of her female identity she was able to heal. Part of this process involved collecting stains of her blood onto cotton cloth to provide a physical document of her healing over time. Vergara-Sanz then took a needle and

thread and began to embroider onto these stains, transforming her bodily prints into images of power and strength, often rooted in indigenous or other spiritual iconography.

Through this highly personal process, she began to question why our culture has evolved to attach shame and disgust to women's bodies and particularly to the cycle from which life is possible. Take for example advertisements for period products which inevitably use a blue liquid to demonstrate absorbency, signaling that menstrual blood is something unsightly and secretive. This led Vergara-Sanz to invite others to join her in the creation of this work. Participants send scans of their own stains to be printed on fabric. These prints which include images of the artist's original stains are

then utilized in speech and stitch sessions where people come together to embroider the prints and to talk about women's bodies in an effort to destigmatize menstruation and to heal through art.

This exhibition is a culmination of the artist's individual and collective work, and represents the beginning of an ongoing project to reclaim power. For those interested in participating or to learn more, please visit moonrootproject.com.

ANNAH LEE, CREATIVE DIRECTOR



**JIMENA
VERGARA-SANZ**
has an MA in Industrial Design from NC State University and is a Fulbright scholar specialized in design innovation. Vergara-Sanz received a BA in Product Design from Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia.