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**JUSTIN FAVELA'S PLAYFUL PIÑATA SCULPTURES EXPLORE
THE POLITICS OF TEX-MEX IN "ALL YOU CAN EAT"**

On view at Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, June 1 – August 25, 2019

Justin Favela: All You Can Eat

June 1 – August 25, 2019

Main Gallery

Houston Center for Contemporary Craft

4848 Main Street, Houston, TX 77002

Exhibition Reception

Friday, May 31, 5:30 – 8:00 PM

The evening will also feature the opening of *Tiff Massey: A Different World* in the Front Gallery and open studios by the current resident artists. Beer generously provided by Buffalo Bayou Brewing Co.

Hours & Admission

Open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 AM – 5 PM, and Sunday, 12 – 5 PM. Closed on major holidays. Admission is free.

(HOUSTON, TX) March 4, 2019 – Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC) is pleased to present "All You Can Eat," a solo exhibition by mixed-media artist Justin Favela. Featuring larger-than-life piñatas depicting a visual feast of Tex-Mex cuisine, from "nachos supreme" to "chili con carne," this site-specific installation, which is both playful and challenging, is intended to generate conversation about popular culture, the politics of food, and the Latinx experience in the U.S.

HCCC Curator Kathryn Hall explains the central ideas behind Favela's installation: "Historically, food has been used as a powerful tool to unite people and to disarm adversaries. Through his work, Favela exposes the complex narratives found within the everyday meals people eat. His boisterously Texas-sized sculptures shed an absurd light on the dominant cultural narrative of Tex-Mex cuisine, and those who stake claim on its authenticity, to examine its complicated relationship to Latinx identity in the United States."

As a queer, brown, first-generation American of Guatemalan and Mexican descent, Favela takes charge of his personal narrative by embracing the medium of the piñata, a craft practice that has a longstanding history in the Latinx community. By cutting strips of paper, known as *papel china*, the artist meticulously covers armatures made from everyday materials, such as cardboard, insulation, and Styrofoam to create his large-scale sculptures. His use of piñatas, which are common in many households, enables him to speak to issues related to popular culture and to the Latinx experience in an incredibly accessible way.

As co-host “FavyFav” of the podcast “Latinos Who Lunch” and host of “The Art People Podcast,” Favela creates a platform that supports queer people of color and calls attention to hierarchies set forth by Eurocentrism. Starting every episode by discussing their bond over a diverse selection of food, he and his *LWL* co-host, “Babelito,” aka curator and art historian, Dr. Emmanuel Ortega, critically address the problems that exist in a white-dominated society and seek to correct histories told from a colonialist viewpoint. Together, their voices challenge the status quo and empower others to speak up and make space for different perspectives.

Having exhibited in museums all over the country and abroad, Favela strives to tear down institutional barriers through his artwork and social practice. With *All You Can Eat*, he references the narratives of the Tejano people and raises awareness of issues related to cultural appropriation, while increasing the visibility of the Latinx community.

Justin Favela: All You Can Eat is curated by HCCC Curator Kathryn Hall.

About Justin Favela

Based in Las Vegas, Nevada, and known for large-scale installations and sculptures that manifest his interactions with American pop culture and the Latinx experience, Justin Favela has exhibited his work both internationally and across the United States. His installations have been commissioned by the Denver Art Museum in Colorado and Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Arkansas. His latest major project, *Recuérdame*, is on view in New York City, at the Sugar Hill Children’s Museum of Art & Storytelling, through September 8, 2019. He is the recipient of the 2018 Alan Turing LGTBIQ Award for International Artist. Favela hosts two culture-oriented podcasts, “Latinos Who Lunch” and “The Art People Podcast.” He holds a BFA in fine arts from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

About Houston Center for Contemporary Craft

Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC) is a nonprofit visual arts center dedicated to advancing education about the process, product, and history of craft. HCCC provides exhibition, retail, and studio spaces to support the work of local and national artists and serves as a resource for artists, educators and the community at large.

Located in the Museum District at 4848 Main Street, HCCC is open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 AM – 5 PM, and Sunday, 12 – 5 PM. Holidays: Closed Easter, July 4th, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day. Admission is free. Free parking is available directly behind the facility, off Rosedale and Travis Street. HCCC is three blocks south of Wheeler Ave. MetroRail station on Main Street.

HCCC is supported by individual donors and members and funded in part by The Brown Foundation; Houston Endowment, Inc.; the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance; Texas Commission on the Arts; the National Endowment for the Arts, the Kinder Foundation; the Morgan Foundation; Windgate Charitable Foundation; and the Wortham Foundation. HCCC is a member of the Houston Museum District and the Midtown Arts District.

For more information, call 713-529-4848 or visit www.crafthouston.org. Find HCCC on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram @CraftHouston.

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