



FORT MASON CENTER
FOR ARTS & CULTURE

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**Sofie Ramos Installation “Space to Breathe”
Shines at Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture**



SAN FRANCISCO — Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture (FMCAC) is pleased to announce the new installation “Space to Breathe” by Bay area artist Sofie Ramos. In her new commission for FMCAC, Ramos inhabits three entry sites to the FMCAC campus: the 1926 Guardhouse, the power transformer, and the driveway separating the two. Ramos’ fantastical installation suggests a painting expanding into space, engulfing the viewer. Her playful use of vibrant color and exaggerated shape transforms everyday objects and interiors into their extroverted and dream-like cousins.

This is the first art work installed in FMCAC’s Guardhouse, and will remain on view through December 2018.

“I’m excited to bring this activation to our front door,” says Frank Smigiel, Director of Arts Programming and Partnerships, who joined FMCAC from SFMOMA earlier this year. “Ramos works in making the familiar unfamiliar, and sparks the kind of curiosity I want to bring to arts programming at Fort Mason Center in the year ahead.”

Ramos remakes the Guardhouse as a miniature play house, visible only through the structure’s four windows. Chris Wood’s ambient soundscape highlights the contrasting energies at the heart of the piece, as the score calls us to spy a room we can never enter. The overabundant interior too sits close to a creeping claustrophobia, as a viewer imagines life within the crowded enclosure.

This push and pull of exuberance and restriction continues across the installation, as line drawings on the ground parallel the pedestrian crosswalk and lead viewers to a fantasy fence. Concealing the working power transformer, Ramos’ mural-like painting recalls children’s forts, carnival architectures, and fairy tales. A story waits to be told about setting out or coming home, about guarded treasures or safe houses, about the things we can see and the sights we imagine behind every wall.

“Sofie’s work brings vibrancy to our guardhouse,” says FMCAC Executive Director Rich Hillis. “We hope the color and energy will draw people in to explore both her piece and what’s happening at Fort Mason Center.”

About Sofie Ramos

Oakland-based Ramos creates installations that are inspired by everyday material culture, curating found objects and patterns to make the mundane strange through form, color, and whimsy. Her site-specific work is known for its colorful chaos and continuous evolution. With an BA in Visual Arts from Brown University and an MFA from UC Berkeley, Ramos has shown at Mixed Greens gallery in New York, Swim Gallery in San Francisco, and Johansson Projects in Oakland, and she is an alum of the Artist in Residence program at Facebook HQ, where she is the only artist with three permanent installations.

About Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture (FMCAC)

A decommissioned military installation converted into a nonprofit cultural center in 1977, FMCAC has long been host to a lively mix of arts, educational, and cultural programming. Each year FMCAC provides more than \$2 million in support to local arts organizations, enabling groups to produce diverse and innovative artworks at the historic waterfront campus. With a four-decade history as an arts and culture destination, FMCAC is now focused on reinvigorating its arts programming and site amenities to better engage the evolving and dynamic Bay Area creative community. Central to this new vision is the commissioning and presentation of adventurous and unconventional artworks best realized in nontraditional or historic settings. Visit fortmason.org for more information.

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Image: Photo by Sofie Ramos

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