



MUSEO JUMEX PRESENTS:

ÁLVARO URBANO: HELEN

16.OCT.2026 - 07.FEB.2027
GALLERY 1

Mexico City, August 18, 2026. Museo Jumex presents *Helen* by artist Álvaro Urbano (Madrid, 1983), an exhibition in which different temporalities and memories converge around Casa Cueva, one of the landmarks of Mexican modern architecture. Built in the middle of the last century in Pedregal de San Ángel, this site brings together the story of artist Helen Fowler O’Gorman and architect Juan O’Gorman, who inhabited and designed the house and its garden.

Urbano imagines Casa Cueva as a silent witness, bearing the traces of accumulated time found in its material and vegetal transformations. In *Helen*, this house stands as a silent witness, bearing the traces of accumulated time and the material transformations that have continually reshaped it.

This exhibition is a homage to Helen Fowler O’Gorman’s work and practice, immersed in botanical sensibility and deeply rooted in Central Mexico that continues Urbano’s site-responsive practice that he defines as an “archeology of desires and past intentions”. Inspired by the house, the exhibition brings together Fowler O’Gorman’s book *Mexican Flowering Trees and Plants*, first published in 1961; references to O’Gorman’s petro-murals; and later mutations made by artist Helen Escobedo on the terrain. Rather than presenting a historiographical account, these presences operate as narrative threads, overlapping and resonating with one another like the murmurs of the many stories that inhabit Casa Cueva.

Published along side of the exhibition, the artist’s book—edited by Fundación Jumex Arte Contemporáneo— brings together essays by researchers Gina Cebey and Adriana Sandoval, documentation of the installation at Museo Jumex, archival photographs of Casa Cueva from the Archivo Fotográfico “Manuel Toussaint” at UNAM’s Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas (IIE), and excerpts from Helen Fowler O’Gorman’s *Mexican Flowering Trees and Plants*. *Helen* is accompanied by a public program of workshops, public talks, and performances presented at Museo Jumex from October 16, 2026, through February 7, 2027.

The exhibition forms part of the Museo Jumex’s autumn program which also includes *Richard Prince: Tell Me Everything* and *Raúl Silva: Gateway*.

The exhibition is curated by Rosela del Bosque, Associate Curator, and Carolina Estrada García, Curatorial Assistant, Museo Jumex.

Álvaro Urbano’s work creates atmospheres that replicate specific spaces and architectural gestures, by exploring the narratives that are embedded in these built bodies. Urbano borrows strategies from theater and filmmaking—such as lighting, sound and costumes—in order to explore new formats of immersiveness, his projects are often structured as scenes or sequenced chapters. The interweaving of different

media is used to generate situations that approach liminal and oneiric dimensions transforming the exhibition space into a vessel of phantasms and apparitions.

Urbano has presented his work in museums and institutions such as the Taipei Biennial 2025; Singapore Biennale 2025; Wattis Institute, San Francisco, US; Georg Kolbe Museum, Berlin, DE; SculptureCenter, New York, US; TEA Tenerife Espacio de las Artes, Tenerife, SP; Bergen Assembly, NO; Storefront for Art and Architecture in New York, US; La Casa Encendida, Madrid, SP; Art Basel Statements, Basel, CH, with ChertLüdde; Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn, DE; Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, DE; Boghossian Foundation, Brussels, BE; Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne, DE; Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin, DE; CAB, Brussels, BE; Moscow International Biennale for Young Art, Moscow, RU; Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin, DE; among others. He is one of the recipients of the CHANEL Next Prize 2026 and will hold a guest professorship at Städelschule for the upcoming summer semester.

MUSEO JUMEX

Museo Jumex, Fundación Jumex Arte Contemporáneo's main platform, opened its doors to the public in November 2013 as an institution devoted to contemporary art. Its aim is not only to serve a broad and diverse public, but also to be a laboratory for experimentation and innovation in the arts. Through its exhibitions, publications, research, and public programs, Museo Jumex familiarizes audiences with the concepts and contexts that inform current art practice. Through the use of critical and pedagogical tools, the museum's educational programs further the institution's commitment to build links between contemporary art and the public.

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