

dignicraft

CV

Winter 2023

We started the Dignicraft collective in Tijuana, Mexico, during 2013. We make documentary films and collaborative art projects. And we have a space for cultural exchange called Basalto, in the State of Mexico.

We are a hybrid between a film production company, art collective and distributor of cultural goods, inspired by human dignity and justice, the artisanal process of creation, and the potential of collaboration to achieve the common good.

Dignicraft was born from the evolution of the collective work that Paola Rodríguez, José Luis Figueroa, Omar Foglio, Blanca O. España †, David Figueroa and Araceli Blancarte started, since 2000, under the name Bulbo y Galatea audio / visual.

Selection of documentaries and videos

2022

“Love & Rockets: The Great American Comic Book” feature documentary about Love and Rockets, the comic book originally published in 1981 by the Hernandez brothers from Oxnard, California, which has been praised for its diversity and nuances, garnering a world-wide fanbase by pushing the edge of storytelling through graphic art. Its storylines have evolved over the last 40 years with characters aging and situations developing in real-time. A co-production between Dignicraft Film & Art and KCET-Los Angeles. Los Angeles, California.

Watch the movie:

<https://www.kcet.org/shows/artbound/episodes/love-rockets>

Love & Rockets:
The Great
American Comic
Book



2021

“El Ojo de Agua de los Gálvez” documentary feature film about José Gálvez’s effort to revive his uninhabited rancharía in Jalisco, Mexico. A co-production of Dignicraft and FOPROCINE-México. El Ojo de Agua de los Gálvez, Jalisco; and Los Ángeles, California. Award for Best Direction in the “Panorama Continental Largometraje Documental” category of the 6th Festival Internacional Cine de América (FICAH).

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/605101620>

2020

"187: The Rise of the Latino Vote" a feature documentary about Proposition 187, a California ballot measure passed in 1994 that sought to deny public services to undocumented immigrants. A co-production of Dignicraft Film & Art and KCET-Los Angeles. First place in the Local Political / Government Reporting category of the 63rd Southern California Journalism Awards from the Los Angeles Press Club. Nomination for the Imagen award in the category of best documentary at the 36th annual Imagen Awards.

Watch online: <https://www.kcet.org/187>

2019

"Día de los Muertos / Day of the Dead", a documentary feature film about the origin of the Day of the Dead in East Los Angeles. A Dignicraft and KCETLink co-production for the Artbound television show and digital platform. Los Angeles California. Emmy Award Nomination in the category for L.A. Local Color of the 72nd Los Angeles Area Emmy Awards.

Watch online:

<https://www.kcet.org/shows/artbound/episodes/dia-de-los-muertos-day-of-the-dead>

2018

"La Raza", a feature-length documentary about the young photographers behind the magazine of the Chicano movement in Los Angeles, La Raza. A Dignicraft and KCET-Los Angeles co-production for the Artbound television show and digital platform. First place in the category of "Minority / Immigration reporting" of the 61st SoCal Journalism Awards of the Los Angeles Press Club. Emmy Award Nomination in the Culture / History Category at the 71st Los Angeles Area Emmy Awards.

Watch online:

<https://www.kcet.org/shows/artbound/episodes/la-raza>

"Caldo Mich: Conservando la tradición" (Caldo Mich: Preserving the tradition); "Soup Joumou: Celebrando la libertad" (Soup Joumou: Celebrating Freedom); and "Pupusas: Recuerdos de El Salvador" (Pupusas: Memories of El Salvador), a series of three documentary short films that show how migrants from Haiti, El Salvador and the Purépecha community of Michoacán bring the dishes and flavors of their homelands. A Dignicraft production with the support of the "Programa de Apoyo a las Culturas Municipales y Comunitarias (PACMYC)".

2017

“Fotoperiodista: Documenting Tijuana's Refugee Crisis”, a documentary short film that portrays the work of the Tijuana photojournalist, Omar Martínez, documenting the situation of the more than 8000 Haitian migrants who have arrived in Tijuana in search of applying for humanitarian visas to enter the United States. A Dignicraft and KCET-Link co-production for the Artbound digital platform. Second place for Best Documentary or Special Program – Short of the 10th National Arts & Entertainment Journalism Awards of the Los Angeles Press Club.

Watch online:

<https://www.kcet.org/shows/artbound/fotoperiodista-documenting-tijuana-s-refugee-crisis>

“Tata Padrinos”, a documentary feature film that offers an intimate, subtle but complex perspective of the Dimas Luciano family in their daily effort to integrate into life in the South of the United States, transmit the Purépecha culture to their children and keep alive the bond with their community in Mexico. A Dignicraft production with support from the McColl Center for Art + Innovation.

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/228710497>

2016

“Artesanos / Artisans”, a feature documentary film that portrays the highly skilled workforce of artisans emigrating from Mexico and Latin America, who are the backbone of high-quality design and retail in Los Angeles. A co-production between Dignicraft and KCET-Link for the television program and digital platform Artbound.

Watch online:

<https://www.kcet.org/shows/artbound/episodes/artesanos-artisans>

“Borderlands”, a feature documentary about art on the US-Mexico border. A production of KCET-Link, Dignicraft, et al, for the television program and digital platform Artbound. Winner of the Emmy Award in the Los Angeles Area under the category of Arts.

Watch online:

<https://www.kcet.org/shows/artbound/episodes/borderlands>

2015	<p>“Janitzio, su pesca, sus piñatas”, a documentary that makes an oral-visual account of the migration experiences of a Purépecha indigenous community in Baja California, Mexico. A Dignicraft production with the support of the “Programa de Apoyo a las Culturas Municipales y Comunitarias (PACMYC)”.</p>
2013	<p>“Pasajes”, a documentary short film about the role of the artistic community in restoring the city of Tijuana after a crisis of violence. A Dignicraft and KCET-Los Angeles co-production for the Artbound program.</p> <p>Watch online: https://www.kcet.org/shows/artbound/clip/pasajes</p>
2011	<p>“Tierra Brillante” (Brilliant Soil), a documentary feature film about the poisoning suffered by artisans in Mexico due to the use of lead in their pottery. A production by Galatea audio / visual and FOPROCINE-México. Grand Prix Award of the 8th Film Festival on Clay and Glass, France; Best Film, International Indigenous Film and Video Festival, Mexico; Material Culture and Archeology Film Prize, 13th RAI International Festival of Ethnographic Film, Scotland.</p> <p>Available online in Mexico at: https://www.filminlatino.mx/pelicula/tierra-brillante</p>
2010	<p>“El Corrido del Ciudadano”, a series of video clips on the theme song of the documentary “Tijuaneados Anónimos: Una lágrima, una sonrisa” (Tijuaneados Anonymous: A teardrop, a smile) with Herencia Norteña (norteño), Hell Dandys (punk) and Koñorteño (cumbia), to spread the film's central message: “The city is the sum of its people.” A production of Galatea Audio/Visual and bulbo.</p> <p>Watch online: Herencia Norteña, http://youtu.be/nlMrBetwfiK Hell Dandy's, http://youtu.be/2vWvIcQGGpE Koñorteño, http://youtu.be/N2fsn5vOVu8</p>
2009	<p>“Tijuaneados Anónimos: Una lágrima, una sonrisa” (Tijuaneados Anonymous: A teardrop, a smile), a documentary feature film about a citizen response to the crisis of violence and unprecedented ungovernability that the city of Tijuana lived through. A Galatea audio/visual and</p>

FOPROCINE-México production. Morelia International Film Festival 2009, Mexico; Gira Ambulante de Documentales 2010, Mexico; Best local production at San Diego Latino Film Fest 2011, USA.

Available online in Mexico at:

<https://www.filminlatino.mx/pelicula/tijuaneados-anonimos-una-lagrima-una-sonrisa>

2002-2006

“Bulbo”, a weekly television program of documentary short films about daily life on the Tijuana-San Diego border. A Galatea audio/visual production broadcast on Canal 22 CONACULTA, MVS 52 MX, and Univisión San Diego, among other networks.

Selection of awards, recognitions, residencies, and nominations

2021

First place in the category of “Local Political / Government Reporting” for “187: The Rise of the Latino Vote”, awarded by the Los Angeles Press Club during the 63rd SoCal Journalism Awards.

Nomination for the Imagen award in the category of best documentary for “187: The Rise of the Latino Vote”, at the 36th annual Imagen Awards.

2020

Emmy Award Nomination in the L.A. category. Local Color for “Día de los Muertos / Day of the Dead”, for the 72nd Los Angeles Area Emmy Awards.

2019

Fondo para la Producción Cinematográfica de Calidad (FOPROCINE) for the production of the documentary “El Ojo de Agua de los Gálvez”.

Emmy Award nomination in the culture / history category for “La Raza”, for the 71st Los Angeles Area Emmy Awards.

First place in the category of “Minority / Immigration reporting” for “La Raza”, awarded by the Los Angeles Press Club during the 61st SoCal Journalism Awards.

2017 **Second place for Best Documentary or Special Program – Short for “Fotoperiodista: Documenting Tijuana's Refugee Crisis”, awarded by the Los Angeles Press Club during the 10th National Arts & Entertainment Journalism Awards.**

2016 **Los Angeles Emmy under the category of arts for the documentary short film “Pasajes”, as part of the Artbound television program episode titled “Borderlands”, broadcast on KCET-Link.**

2014 Artistic residence. McColl Center for Art + Innovation, Charlotte, North Carolina.

2013 **Material Culture and Archeology Film Prize for “Tierra Brillante” (Brilliant Soil) at the 13th RAI International Festival of Ethnographic Film, Edinburgh, Scotland.**

Artistic residence. Montalvo Arts Center, Saratoga, California.

2012 **Grand Prix – Ateliers d’Art de France for “Tierra Brillante” (Brilliant Soil) at the 8th International Film Festival on Clay and Glass, Montpellier, France.**

Award for best film at the International Film and Video Festival “Mirando desde nuestra raíz” for “Tierra Brillante” (Brilliant Soil), Puebla, Mexico.

IMCINE Award for the development of the project “La Ola Gigante”.

2011 **Award for best local film at the 18th San Diego Latino Film Festival for “Tijuaneados Anónimos: Una lágrima, una sonrisa” (Tijuaneados Anonymous: A teardrop, a smile). San Diego, California.**

2010 IMCINE-DOCSDF Award for the development of the project “Narí / Nipá ía” (Hello / Goodbye).

2009 Fondo para la Producción Cinematográfica de Calidad (FOPROCINE) for the production of the documentary “Tierra Brillante” (Brilliant Soil).

Fund for the musical production of the CD-EP "El Corrido del Ciudadano" of the Programa de Apoyos a las Culturas Municipales y Comunitarias (PACMYC).

2008

Fondo para la Producción Cinematográfica de Calidad (FOPROCINE) for the production of the documentary "Tijuaneados Anónimos: Una lágrima, una sonrisa" (Tijuaneados Anonymous: A teardrop, a smile").

Artistic residency "FUSE: _CADRE / montalvo" at Montalvo Arts Center.

2007

IMCINE-DOCSDF Award for the development of the project "Tijuaneados Anónimos: Una lágrima, una sonrisa" (Tijuaneados Anonymous: A teardrop, a smile").

2006

Fondo para la preservación del patrimonio cultural del Fondo Estatal para la Cultura y las Artes (FOECA).

Artistic residence "Obstinado Tepito / Patronato de Arte Contemporáneo". Mexico City.

Artistic residency as part of the "Tijuana Organic" exhibition at the Cornerhouse Gallery, Manchester, United Kingdom.

2004

Best Creative Director Award for "Aggressive Skating" at the Festival de Cine de Baja California, Tijuana, Baja California.

2003

First place award for "Una película por la paz / A film 4 peace" at the festival "Este corto sí se ve", Mexico City.

Second place award for "Una película por la paz / A film 4 peace" at the Imperial Beach Film Festival, San Diego, California.

Second place award for "Rap de la Frontera" at the "Este corto si se ve" festival, Mexico City.

Support for the production and transmission of the bulbo TV program of the Fondo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes (FONCA), as part of the Programa de Fomento a Proyectos y Coinversiones Culturales.

2002 Funding for cultural projects from the Instituto Mexicano de la Juventud for the production of bulbo TV.

Selection of art projects and individual or group exhibitions

2021 **Piñatas: The High Art of Celebration**, Craft in America Center. Los Angeles, California.

2020–2021 **Frontera y periferia / Border and Periphery – A Virtual Collaboration by Dignicraft** with Xochitl Flores–Marcial, Feike de Jong, Omar Martínez and Dewey Tafoya. DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, Illinois.

2019 – , **Basalto: A space for encounters and cultural exchange.** A project by Dignicraft. Santa Catarina de Ayotzingo, State of Mexico.

2019 **Encuentros Ayotzingo, Basalto. Proyecto apoyado por el Fondo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes (FONCA).** Santa Catarina Ayotzingo, Chalco, Estado de México.

2017–2019 **Talking to Action: Art, Pedagogy, and Activism in the Americas**, as part of the Pacific Standard Time initiative: LA / LA of Getty, Ben Maltz Gallery of the Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles, California; Sullivan Galleries of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois; ASU Art Museum of the Arizona State University, Phoenix, Arizona; the Pratt Manhattan Gallery of the Pratt Institute, New York, New York; and Parque Cultural de Valparaíso, Valparaíso, Chile.

2017–2018 **The Piñata Exhibit (Sure to be a Smash Hit!)**, National Hispanic Cultural Center. Albuquerque, New Mexico.

2016 **“Under Construction: Territory and Displacement”**, Art Gallery of the Shandong University of Art and Design (SUAD), Jinan, China.

2014	Encuentros / Encounters , McColl Center for Art + Innovation. Charlotte, North Carolina. Individual exhibition.
2013	Mountains in My Spoon: Artists and Food , Montalvo Arts Center, Saratoga, California.
2012	You Are Breathing In It! Alternative Art Practices , The Riverside Art Museum (RAM), Riverside, California.
2011	Obra Negra. Una Aproximación a la Construcción de la Cultura Visual de Tijuana , Sala Cubo del Centro Cultural Tijuana, Tijuana, Mexico.
2009	StayBite: Modes of Operation , The University of Texas at Dallas, Visual Arts Building, Dallas, Texas.
	Proyecto Cívico: Diálogos e Interrogantes , Centro Cultural Tijuana, Centro Cultural Tijuana, Mexico.
2008	bulbo, San Jose: DIY Media Strategies from the Border , Natalie and James Thompson Art Gallery as part of the OISJ Biennial, San Jose, California. Individual exhibition.
	"Don't, a reactivation of an Allan Kaprow Happening" , University of Southern California as part of the project Allan Kaprow – Art as Life, The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA, Los Angeles, California.
	¿Por qué no te callas? Activismo, Desobediencia y Medios de Comunicación , Arte Actual, Quito, Ecuador.
	The Future of Nations – Part III: Citizen Artists Making Emphatic Arguments , 18th Street Arts Center, Santa Monica, California.
	Inside the Wave: Six San Diego / Tijuana Artists Construct Social Art , San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, California.
	From A to B , Fellows of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, California.
	Obstinado Tepito . Galería José María Velasco and Casa Vecina, Mexico City.

2007

Viva México! Zacheta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw, Poland.

Add a Contact: Public Space and its Alternatives Within Communication Media, IX Cuenca Biennial, Quito, Ecuador.

Tianguis de Diseño, Antiguo Colegio de San Ildefonso as part of the exhibition Anni and Josef Albers Viajes por Latinoamérica, Mexico City.

Tijuana Organic, Cornerhouse, Manchester, United Kingdom; SPACE gallery, London, United Kingdom; and Centro Cultural Tijuana, Tijuana, Mexico.

2006

Strange New World: Art and Design from Tijuana, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, San Diego, California; y Santa Monica Museum of Art, Santa Monica, California.

Historias que No Venden, Antiguo Colegio de San Ildefonso, Mexico City. Individual exhibition.

ES2006 IV Bienal Internacional de Estandartes, Centro Cultural Tijuana, Tijuana, Mexico.

2005

inSite_05 Art Practices in the Public Domain, Tijuana, Mexico and San Diego, California.

Tijuana Sessions, Sala de Exposiciones de Alcalá 31 as part of ARCO 2005 (Feria Internacional de Arte Contemporáneo), Madrid, Spain; and the Centro de Historia as part of Zaragoza Latina, Zaragoza, Spain.

Arte Nuevo Interactiva'05 Bienal Internacional Mérida_MX, Centro Cultural de Mérida Olimpo, Merida, Mexico.

Tijuana en Zaragoza, Centro de Historia, Zaragoza, Spain.

¿Será Melón, Será Sandía? Arte Contemporáneo Mexicano en Barcelona, KBB – Kultur Buro Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain.

Flama 02 Festival de Arte y Música Activados, Xalapa, Mexico.

2004 **Magma: Migración y Arte**, Parque Cultural Viera y Clavijo, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain.

Larva – Laboratorio de Análisis de la Relación entre Vida y Amor, Centro Cultural Tijuana, Tijuana, Mexico.

Selection of conferences, workshops, and courses

2021 **Guest interlocutors and collaborators during the semester for the class "Death at the Borderlands – Forensic Empathy, Ethics, and Art"** of the Urban Humanities Initiative program. University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California.

2019 **Oral History Workshop / In-Depth Interview for Video, as part of the project "Encuentros Ayotzingo"**. Santa Catarina Ayotzingo, State of Mexico.

2018 **Guest lecturers in the Urban Humanities Initiative program with the presentation "Tijuana: Past and Speculative Futures"**. University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California.

2017 **Presentation titled "DIGNICRAFT: A Border Collective on Art and Activism"** as part of the Forum for Scholars & Publics at Duke University. Durham, North Carolina.

Concept Development Workshop for a Documentary Short Film, California State University Northridge. Los Angeles California.

2015 **"Portraits and Encounters" conference as part of the "LA / LA: Place and Practice"** symposium at the Getty Center. Los Angeles California.

2014–2015 **Intensive documentary film production workshop** for the Master's program in Cultural Studies and the Doctorate in Social Sciences at El Colegio de la Frontera Norte. Tijuana Baja California.

2014

Presentation on the work of Dignicraft and discussion with indigenous artisans, artists, and activists, as part of the series of events of the Department of Art, Art History and Visual Studies of Duke University and the Abya Yala group of the Duke-UNC Consortium of Latin American & Caribbean Studies, at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Cinema Workshop for Purépecha youth and from the city of Morelia, "Imágenes Vivas II", organized by the Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes [CONACULTA], through the Dirección General de Culturas Populares - Unidad Regional en Michoacán and Dignicraft Film & Art. Patzcuaro, Michoacan.

2013

"How to develop the idea for a documentary film project and work in collaboration as a means of production for journalists", workshop at the El Cuarto de Luz gallery. Tijuana, Baja California.

Film production workshop for Purépecha youth and from the city of Morelia, "Imágenes Vivas", organized by the Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes [CONACULTA], through the Dirección General de Culturas Populares - Unidad Regional en Michoacán and Dignicraft Film & Art. Santa Fe de la Laguna, Michoacan.

"How to develop the idea for a documentary film project and work in collaboration as a means of production for researchers in the social sciences", a workshop for researchers and doctoral students from the Colegio de Michoacan. Zamora, Michoacan

Film and audiovisual production workshop during the 2013-1 semester. Faculty of Arts at the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, Tijuana, Mexico.

Guest lecturers in the class "The Lives of Objects". California College of the Arts, San Francisco, California.

Guest Professors for the Graduate Public Practice program at OTIS College of Art & Design. Camino Verde Community Center, Tijuana, Baja California.

2010

Film production workshop in the Purépecha communities, Tarhimu Research Workshop. Ihuatzio, Michoacan.

2008	Guest Professors / Artists in the Public Art Studies program , Roski School of Fine Arts, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California.
	Film Production and Self-Representation Workshop , McKinley Neighborhood Center, San Jose, California.
2007	"Tianguis de Diseño": Design, clothing and self-representation workshop. Antiguo Colegio de San Ildefonso, Mexico City.
	Workshop on design and creativity given in collaboration with Slanguage. Montalvo Arts Center, Saratoga, California.
2006	Photography, Design, and Collaboration Workshop , taught simultaneously at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego / KIPP Adelante Preparatory Academy and the bulbo studio. Tijuana, Baja California and San Diego, California.
	Workshop on collaboration and creation of bulbo press # 15 magazine. Galatea audio / visual - bulbo. Tijuana, Mexico.
2005	The Clothing Store (the clothes shop): Workshop on clothing, fashion, and collaboration. Galatea audio / visual - bulbo, Tijuana, Baja California.
