



For Immediate Release:

Postcommodity

Coyotaje

Curated by Kristen Chappa

An Art in General New Commission

Opening reception:

Friday, March 24, 6–8pm

Exhibition: March 25 – May 6, 2017

Art in General

145 Plymouth Street

Brooklyn, NY 11201

<http://artingeneral.org/>



Postcommodity, *Es mas alcanzable de lo que se imaginaban*, 2017. Courtesy the artists.

Art in General presents a newly commissioned installation by arts collective Postcommodity, marking the group's first solo exhibition in New York. Composed of artists Raven Chacon, Cristóbal Martínez, and Kade L. Twist, Postcommodity's multidisciplinary practice reveals and examines Indigenous cultural narratives and their relationships to broader social, political, and economic dialogues and actions. For the exhibition *Coyotaje*, Postcommodity continues its several years-long investigation of the military and economic life of the US-Mexico borderlands, highlighting the complex dynamics between U.S. Border Patrol, the communities living in the San Pedro River Valley region, and individuals moving across the border. The exhibition is made possible through Art in General's New Commissions Program, and is included in a season-long exploration of the politics related to geographic boundaries and the histories, possession, and accessibility of land.

As part of the project, Postcommodity engaged the U.S. Border Patrol in a dialogue on the role of decoys in its offensive and defensive operations. Decoys are sometimes used by Border Patrol agents to apprehend individuals trying to cross the border, to push passage in specific directions, and to discourage illegal crossing into the United States. Given that many individuals encounter decoys in darkness, they have become shrouded in mythology, taking on auras and personas drawn from local folklore and oral traditions. *Coyotaje* will feature large-scale sculpture inspired by these conversations and Postcommodity's intimate knowledge of the Douglas/Agua Prieta landscape, as well as a multi-channel sound work that references sonic decoys used by border agents. Conceived as potentially functional decoys, the works highlight the peculiar nature of these forms, as they represent both the tactical needs of agents and the cultural manifestations of those who encounter them.

Moving the conversation on border security beyond simplistic, mass-oriented appeals, *Coyotaje* instead examines the real-life experiences of those living and moving near and around the border. Postcommodity's work breaks down some of the arbitrary and falsely-created barriers among peoples of this region, and looks to establish new constructs that speak more readily to the social, geographic, and cultural histories of these borderlands.

Postcommodity was formed in 2007 by Raven Chacon, Cristóbal Martínez, and Kade L. Twist, and has previously included other artists living in and around New Mexico and Arizona. Postcommodity has presented work across the United States and around the world, including Australia, Belgium, and Canada. In 2015, Postcommodity installed the much-acclaimed public work *Repellent Fence* at the US-Mexico border near Douglas, AZ and Agua Prieta, SON, marking the creation of one of the largest public art installations by two nations. Postcommodity will also be featured in the upcoming editions of the 2017 Whitney Biennial and documenta 14.

For more information, please contact:

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Founded in 1981, **Art in General** is a nonprofit organization that assists artists with the production and presentation of new work. It changes in response to the needs of artists and informs and engages the public about their work. Art in General currently supports the production of new work by local and international artists through its *New Commissions Program* and its *International Collaborations Program* with numerous arts organizations around the world. It also produces an annual symposium titled *What Now?* on critical and timely issues in artistic and curatorial practice.

General Support of Art in General is provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services; the New York State Council on the Arts with support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; the Ruth Ivor Foundation; the Cowles Foundation; Toby D. Lewis Donor Advised Fund of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland; and by individuals. This program is also supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

The ***New Commissions Program*** provides in-depth support for eight to ten artists each year, for the creation of major new works, including the financial, logistical, promotional, and presentation assistance necessary to bring these works to new audiences worldwide. The *New Commissions Program* is made possible by the Trust for Mutual Understanding; National Endowment for the Arts; Jerome Foundation; A G Foundation, and the Milton and Sally Avery Foundation. Support has also been provided by Commissioners' Circle leaders Elaine Goldman, Jeffery Larsen and Joseph Bolduc, and Richard Massey; Commissioners' Circle supporters John and Andrea Nylund, and David Solo; and Commissioners' Circle members Nader Ansary; Rob Colangelo, Donald Erenberg; Roya Khadjavi-Heidari, Mary Lapidés, Eric Nylund, Leslie Ruff, Steve Shane, and Diana Wege.

The ***What Now? Symposium***, and accompanying book series from 2015-2017, is generously supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (MA-10-14-0304-14).

