

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Cindy Jacobs, Director of Marketing and Development

Email: cjacobs@wiseplace.org; Phone: 714.542.3577

CONTACT: Kristen Schmidt, Deputy Director of External Affairs

Email: kschmidt@ocma.net; Phone 949.759.1122 ext. 207



WISEPlace women's shelter supports LA artist's big endeavor

Artist Carmen Argote takes up residency inside Santa Ana facility to create art for the Orange County Museum of Art's *2017 California-Pacific Triennial: Building As Ever* exhibition

Santa Ana, Ca. – Carmen Argote unfolds a 22' x 22' blank fabric, turns on music, takes a sip of coffee and begins to paint. Just one evening prior, in the same room, a group of unaccompanied homeless women sit around U-shaped card tables, and are guided through a letter-writing exercise – led by volunteers – to help build self-confidence. The Silver Hall of WISEPlace is brimming with a sense of women's empowerment, perseverance and the unexpected.

WISEPlace is a nonprofit transitional housing and empowerment program in Santa Ana, serving unaccompanied homeless women. WISEPlace supports homeless women through their journey back to independence by providing basic needs – food, clothing and shelter – in addition to wrap-around services. They have been serving unaccompanied homeless women in the community for 30 years.

Argote is working at WISEPlace through April 20 on her project *Place on Fold*. Argote's process of working connects to WISEPlace's focus on female empowerment, making this partnership particularly fitting. The piece is about our relationship to place and Argote is drawing on a wide range of skills and resources, including her mother and grandmother's expertise as seamstresses, to create it. The work will be included in the Orange County Museum of Art's *2017 California-Pacific Triennial* that features artworks by 25 artists representing 12 countries around the Pacific Rim. She will paint up to 9 pieces in total during her time at WISEPlace that will then be installed at OCMA and continue to evolve in that space. The exhibition is on view at the museum May 6 through September 3.

Argote feels a strong connection in creating her pieces at WISEPlace. "Resourcefulness and transformation -- having a say in how you shape your environment -- it's a powerful gesture, and I wanted to bring that into the work as part of its process. These are also keys in any journey," she said.

As part of her time at WISEPlace, Argote is excited to speak to residents during a weekly group session. "This is my opportunity to give thanks to them for sharing their space with me. In my practice, I couldn't do it alone," she said.

###

