

PUBLIC MEDIA INSTITUTE & CO-PROSPERITY CHICAGO PRESENT

# *Contigo, Diana Solís*

Curated by Nicole Marroquin and Deanna Ledezma

**Co-Prosperity Chicago**

3219 S. Morgan St.  
Chicago, IL 60608

**August 5–September 23, 2023**

Opening Reception: August 5, 2023, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm  
Gallery Hours: Saturdays, 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm and by appointment



Robert Ford, Cecilia “CC” Hunt, Trent Adkins (co-founder of *Thing* magazine with Ford), and Diana Solís after a portrait session at Solís’s apartment and photo studio, above the Swan Club on North Clark Street, 1981.

*Contigo, Diana Solís* is a convening of photographs, artists, and communities. Rather than being structured as a “solo show,” *Contigo: Diana Solís* commemorates the social- and community-based dimensions of Solís’s photographic practice by bringing artists into creative dialogue. Born in Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico in 1956, Diana Solís (they/them) has lived and worked in Chicago for over sixty years. This exhibition features Solís’s newly printed photographs, originating from film shot in the 1970s–90s, as well as their recently created digital photographs, made since their return to photography in 2020. These past and present photographs attest to Solís’s enduring commitment to documenting the people, places, and activities that form Latinx, LGBTQIA+, immigrant, and feminist communities in Pilsen and across Chicago. The recirculation of Solís’s archival photographs and revitalization of her practice today are intertwined, sustained by care, reciprocity, and labor. As the photographs in this exhibition underscore, portraiture is a strong source of this continuity. Whether their subject is a friend, acquaintance, or someone they just met, Solís’s honorific portraits exemplify their awareness of how photography, as a fundamentally social medium, asks us to behold each other.

The twenty artists taking part in this exhibition reflect how Solís, as an educator, activist, and photographer, has long collaborated intergenerationally and continues to forge ever-expanding networks across generations in and beyond Chicago. The exhibition invites visitors to locate resonances among works by Solís and participating artists, while recognizing the specificities of their distinct social commitments, personal and collective histories, and sensibilities. In creative correspondence with Solís, these works act as points of intersection that help us understand art making as a practice done together, for our communities, and in response to others.

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**Participating Artists:**

Sandra Antongiorgi, Oscar Arriola, Samantha Friend Cabrera, Colectivo Multipolar, Elle Muñoz Diaz, William Estrada, Maria Gaspar, Jackie Guataquira, Juan Molina Hernández, Sarita Hernández, Marylu E. Herrera, Colleen Keihm, Sam Kirk, Nicole Marroquin, Mony Nuñez, Clau Rocha, Vanessa Sanchez, CHema Skandal!, Akito Tsuda, and Nicholas Zepeda

**About Diana Solís:**

Diana Solís (b. 1956, Mexico) is a Chicago-based visual artist, photographer, and educator who has documented queer activism and Latinx daily life for almost five decades. They studied studio and experimental photography and worked as a photojournalist for twenty-five years, occasionally halted by recurring breast cancer. They have photographed poets including Sandra Cisneros, many consecutive years of Chicago and Mexico Pride marches, IV Encuentro Feminista de América Latina y el Caribe, early years at Latino Youth, marches and demonstrations, Chicago women’s rugby and women’s marathons, women’s bars, feminist gatherings, Chicano theater, and their neighborhood of Pilsen. They have been a teaching artist, painter, illustrator, and photographer for over forty years and currently reside in Pilsen. Solís is a 2023-24 recipient of the U.S. Latinx Art Forum (USLAF) Latinx Artist Fellowship.

<https://www.dianasolis.com>  
Instagram: @pilsenita


**About Public Media Institute & Co-Prosperity Chicago:**

Public Media Institute (PMI) is a non-profit 501(c) 3, community-based art and culture organization headquartered in the neighborhood of Bridgeport in the city of Chicago. Our mission is to create, incubate, and sustain innovative cultural programming through the production of socially engaged projects, festivals, community spaces, exhibitions, and media. PMI showcases emerging and established artists from Chicago and around the world in our network of art spaces and partner organizations.

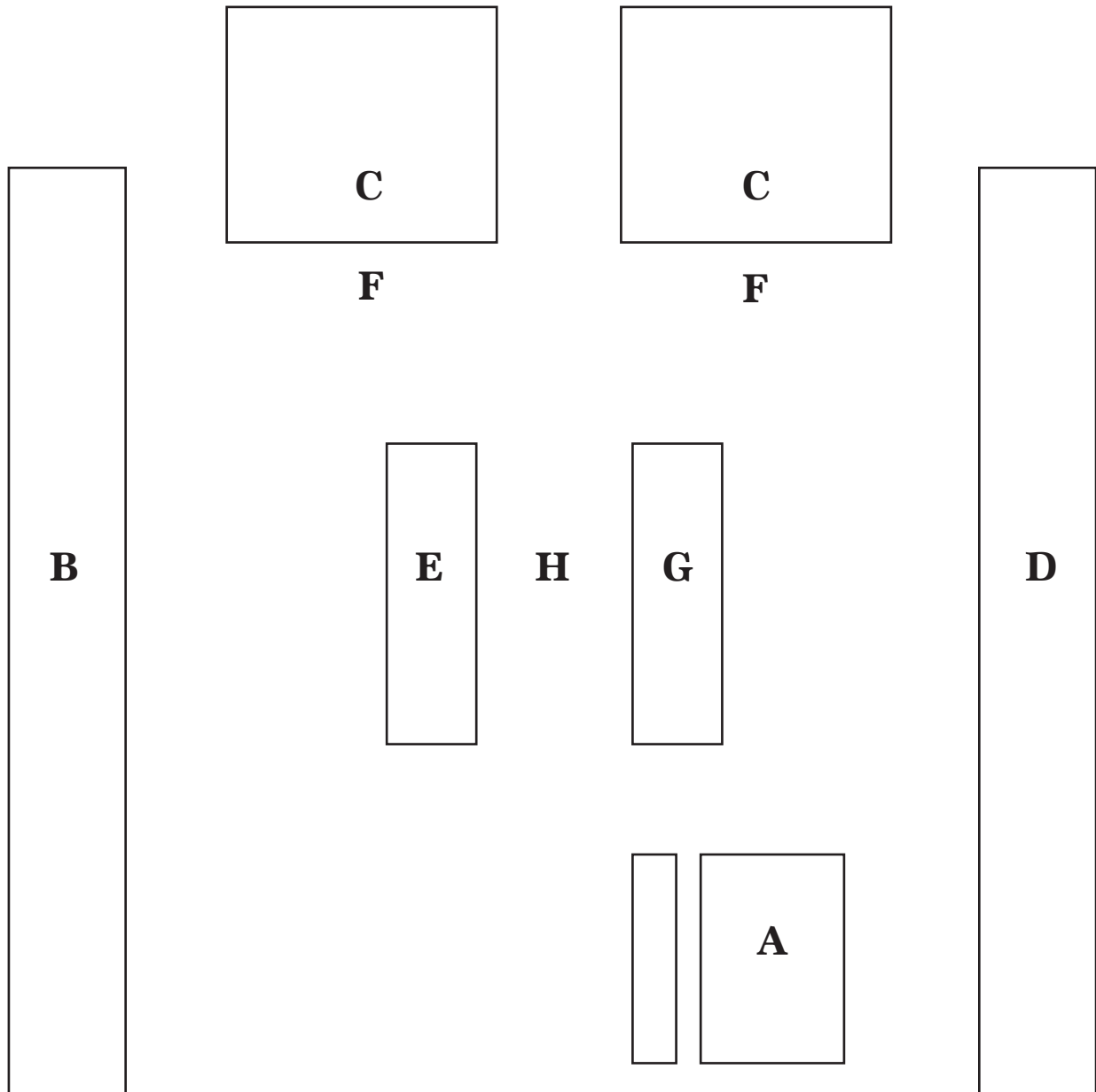
Co-Prosperity (Co-Pro) is an experimental cultural center located in Bridgeport, Chicago. Co-Pro hosts exhibitions, screenings, installations, gatherings, and performance programs in its 2,600+ square foot gallery. The space hosts between 30-40 events and exhibitions annually, serving over 20,000 individuals each year.

The exhibitions programs at Co-Prosperity are coordinated by Ahniya Butler, Nicholas Zepeda, and the Programming Council, a volunteer group of Chicago artists who determines the shape of the exhibitions program and selects exhibitions from proposals once yearly.

<http://www.publicmediainstitute.com>  
<https://coprosperity.org>

Contigo, Diana Solís is co-sponsored by: 

# Co-Prosperity Chicago Gallery Floorplan



**A. Entrance Wall**

**E. North Center Wall**

**B. North Wall**

**F. East Wall**

**C. Infinity Room**

**G. South Center Wall**

**D. South Wall**

**H. Center Space**

# Contigo, Diana Solís

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## Exhibition Checklist

### Entrance Wall (A)

1. Diana Solís, *Self-portrait*, c. 1981

### North Wall, from Left to Right (B)

2. Diana Solís, *Robin Reid Drake, Trans Activist, Poet, Teaching Artist, and Educator, Chicago*, 2022
3. Diana Solís, *Salima Rivera*, 1978
4. Diana Solís, *Couple at Gay Pride Rally, Chicago*, c. 1981
5. Diana Solís, *Flexing our Muscles, Gathering of Friends, Greenview Street, Lakeview, Chicago*, 1981
6. Diana Solís, *Marilyn's Bar, North Clark Street, River North, Chicago*, 1981
7. Diana Solís, *Martin Sorrondeguy, Photographer, Singer, and Founder of Hardcore Punk Bands Los Crudos and Limp Wrist, Chicago*, 2021
8. Diana Solís, *Colectivo Multipolar, Documentary Photographer of Queer Nightlife, Chicago*, 2022
9. Diana Solís, *Moni Pizano Luna, Art Educator and Interdisciplinary Artist, from the Series Con Orgullo Everyday of the Year, Chicago*, 2023
10. Diana Solís, *Maya Piña, Trans Activist, Writer, and Graphic Designer, Founder of Cultural Magazine El Beisman, Pilsen, Chicago*, 2020
11. Diana Solís, *Nancy Finke with Co-founder and Volunteer Donna Moffett of Jane Addams Bookstore, Michigan Avenue, Chicago*, 1981
12. Diana Solís, *Central Barbershop, 18th Street, Pilsen, Chicago*, 1987
13. Diana Solís, *Panaderia Del Refugio (Permanently Shuttered), 18th Street, Pilsen, Chicago*, 2022
14. Diana Solís, *Fran's Beef (Permanently Shuttered), West 21st and Blue Island Avenue, Pilsen, Chicago*, 2020

## **Infinity Room, Clockwise from Left (C)**

15. Diana Solís, *Young Mother and Child, 18th Street, Chicago, 1987*
16. Diana Solís, *Sexual Health Workshop at St. Procopius High School, Taught by Mujeres Latinas en Acción, Where Diana Solís Worked, Pilsen, Chicago, 1978*
17. Diana Solís, *Peppie and Her Young Sister from the Mothers and Daughters Series, Chicago, 1987*
18. Diana Solís, *Maria Enriquez de Allen and Harold Allen at Home, Pilsen, Chicago, 1987*
19. Diana Solís, *Boxing Match, Boogie Park, Pilsen, Chicago, 1978*
20. Diana Solís, *Las Comadres, 19th Street, Pilsen, Chicago, 1986*
21. Diana Solís, *Two Women Encountered on 18th Street, Pilsen, Chicago, c. 1984*
22. Diana Solís, *Robert Ford, Cecilia "CC" Hunt, Trent Adkins (co-founder of Thing magazine with Ford), and Diana Solís after a Portrait Session at Solís's Apartment and Photo Studio, North Clark Street, 1981*
23. Diana Solís, *Portrait from the Mothers and Daughters Series, Pilsen, Chicago, 1987*
24. Diana Solís, *Family of Onlookers during a May Day Rally, 18th Street, Pilsen, Chicago, 1986*
25. Diana Solís, *May Day Marchers Demand Immigrants' Rights, 18th Street, Pilsen, Chicago, 1983*
26. Diana Solís, *Women Working, from a Series Made for Chicago Women in the Trades, a Training and Apprenticeship Program for Women in Construction and Welding, c. 1987*
27. Diana Solís, *Chicago Pride Rally in Lincoln Park at the End of the Parade Route, 1980*
28. Diana Solís, *Día de los Muertos at Pros Arts Studio, Dvorak Park, Pilsen, Chicago, c. 1984*

## **South Wall, from Left to Right (D)**

29. Diana Solís, *Marta Collazo, Poet, Artist, and One of the First Latina Firefighters in Chicago, 1990*
30. Diana Solís, *Portraits from the Rostros Series, Made at Casa Aztlán during a Summer Youth Photography Program, Pilsen, Chicago, 1986*
31. Diana Solís, *Summer Youth Program Students, Taught by Diana Solís, Casa Aztlán, Pilsen, Chicago, 1986*
32. Diana Solís, *Diana Solís's Photography Workshop, Using Portraits Taken at the Casa Aztlán, at the IV Encuentro Feminista Latinoamericano y del Caribe, Taxco, Mexico, 1987*
33. Diana Solís, *Students in a Women's Sexual Health Course at Latino Youth Alternative High School, Where Diana Solís Taught Photography, Gads Hill Center, Pilsen, Chicago, 1978*

### **South Wall, from Left to Right (Continued)**

34. Diana Solís, *Mony and Suzie, Zine Makers and Visual Artists at the Queer Radical Fair, Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago, 2022*
35. Diana Solís, *Youths Preparing for a Performance at St. Procopius School, Where Diana Solís Taught, Chicago, 1978*
36. Diana Solís, *Marta Collazo, Poet and Former City of Chicago Firefighter, Chicago, 2021*
37. Diana Solís, *Juan Molina Hernández at La Malinche Coffee and Tea House, Pilsen, Chicago, 2022*
38. Diana Solís, *Sandra Cisneros, Writer of The House on Mango Street, Chicago, 1981*
39. Diana Solís, *Julian Pujols Quall, Improviser, Composer, and Performer, Jazz Showcase, Chicago, 2022*

### **North Center Wall (E)**

40. Mony Nunez, *Fuck Days, 2019, Screenprint*
41. Clau Rocha, *What Are Ghosts if Not Just Forgotten Candlelight, 2021, Inkjet print from ink, marker, and collage on paper*
42. Sarita Hernández, *Baby Queer Ridin' Under the Pot Pie Sunshine, 1993/2023, Silkscreen print*
43. Vanessa Ann Sanchez, *Living My Life Like It's Golden, 2023, Lithograph*
44. Sandra Antongiorgi, *Pilsen Children's Book Series, 2023, Digital prints*
45. Maria Gaspar, *A Score for Adam, 2021, Sound Walk, 18:01*

### **East Wall, Left to Right (F)**

46. Akito Tsuda, *Pilsen Days, 1992, Inkjet photograph*
47. Juan Molina Hernández, *su fuerza es secreta (their strength is secret), 2020, Photographic print on fabric*
48. Colleen Keihm, *Contact Sheet, 2023, Collage*
49. Elle Muñoz-Diaz, *Receipt for Olive Juice, 2023, Photography on thermal paper*
50. Nicholas Zepeda, *Stef roasts a chicken for the first time, 2023, Graphite on paper in paper frame*
51. CHema Skandal!, *Amigues, 2023, Risography*



**South Center Wall (G)**

- 52. Samantha Friend Cabrera, *Amor infinito* (in pink frame) and *Birthday Diana* (in silver frame), 2023, Framed silver gelatin prints
- 53. Colectivo Multipolar, *We Own It*, 2022, Digital photographic print
- 54. CHema Skandal!, *Musicalito Version* (left) and *Pilsenita Version* (right), 2017, Risography
- 55. Jackie Guataquira, *A Closer Look*, 2023, Inkjet print, 35mm film, single-frame photo viewers, jewelry box
- 56. Oscar Arriola, *Pugslee Atomz* (top), *Edie Fake* (lower left), and *DJ ABCDJ & ProbCause* (lower right), 2021, Fujifilm instant film photographed with a vintage Polaroid passport ID camera
- 57. Sam Kirk, *Sometimes a Woman is King V2*, 4 phase illustration on lenticular panel

**Center Space (H)**

- 58. Marylu E. Herrera, *mi corazoncito*, 2022, Ribbon, bows, flowers, gems, butterflies, angels, figurines, and wooden stand (left); *Los Cubs*, 2022, Ribbon and bows (middle); *¡Viva México!*, 2022, Ribbon, bows, flowers, eagles, hearts, and tiny hats (right)

**Entrance Wall, Side (A)**

- 59. Nicole Marroquin, *Course Poster for Art in Communities: Activating a Queer Latinx Archive, Art Education Department, School of the Art Institute of Chicago*, 2021, Inkjet print
- 60. William Estrada, *Untitled (Family Portrait Project)*, 2014–present, Inkjet photographs

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**Curators' Note**

Many thanks to Diana Solís and our participating artists: Sandra Antongiorgi, Oscar Arriola, Samantha Friend Cabrera, Colectivo Multipolar, Elle Muñoz Diaz, William Estrada, Maria Gaspar, Jackie Guataquira, Juan Molina Hernández, Sarita Hernández, Marylu E. Herrera, Colleen Keihm, Sam Kirk, Mony Nuñez, Clau Rocha, Vanessa Sanchez, CHema Skandal!, Akito Tsuda, and Nicholas Zepeda. Our gratitude to Josh Rios who led the installation of *Contigo, Diana Solís*. We also thank LATITUDE Chicago for their co-sponsorship and photographic expertise and Ariel Goldberg, an esteemed colleague in our curatorial community. We greatly appreciate the support of the Poetry Foundation as well as Nick Wylie, Ahniya Butler, and David Nasca of Co-Prosperity Chicago, Co-Prosperity Catskill, and everyone at Public Media Institute.