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Jessica Z Schafer
Marketing and Publications Manager
262.638.8300
jzschafer@ramart.org

**Racine Art Museum Presents
Jewelry by Artists with Mexican Heritage**

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Not afraid to use jewelry to share stories or reflect emotion, many contemporary art jewelers create work that is thought provoking and engaging. Even when not being worn, their pieces can reflect the personal, social, and cultural. Open October 16, 2016 – February 5, 2017, ***Made in Mexico: Contemporary Jewelers with Mexican Heritage*** features the work of three artists who use non-precious materials to explore their heritage. In addition to investigating ideas and issues that have personal meaning, **Lorena Angulo**, **Jorge Manilla**, and **Georgina Treviño** create works that speak to the influence of collective histories and shared experiences.

Each artist deftly combines their responses to greater cultural concerns and influences with their personal interests in tradition, emotion, memory, and the urban landscape. Angulo has adopted an iconography that responds to Mexican folk and artistic traditions. The artist combines traditional symbols—such as hearts, crosses, skulls, flowers, and images of the Virgin Mary—with her personal experiences living and traveling in many parts of Mexico as well as the United States

Manilla and Treviño explore aesthetics that are more streamlined and abstracted. Manilla creates work that reflects his interest in human psychology and emotion as abstract and metaphysical concepts. Believing that black is positive—in that it can represent an end which also implies a beginning—he frequently uses it as the color in his work to encourage viewers (and wearers) to speculate about “the secret and the unknown” in the universe. Alluding to religious iconography, both Catholic and indigenous, Manilla utilizes a host of experimental techniques in combination with more traditional materials like wood, bone, and silver.

Responding to the cultural and social codes of class and wealth that can distinguish urban spaces, Treviño uses nontraditional materials—such as cement and rope in her

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jewelry—as an echo of the primary materials used to build homes in her childhood hometown of Tijuana, Mexico. Treviño casts cement—sometimes with textures—then adds other materials and paint in order to create geometric shapes that loosely suggest the hard walls of buildings significant in her experiences.

The diversity of materials represented by these artists corresponds to the innovation of contemporary art jewelry worldwide. Whether they have a metalsmithing background or not, many of those creating art jewelry freely utilize whatever medium best suits their working style, has specific meaning for them, and/or enhances their artistic vision.

This exhibition is made possible by: Platinum Sponsors - Karen Johnson Boyd and William B. Boyd, SC Johnson, Windgate Charitable Foundation; Diamond Sponsor - Osborne and Scekcic Family Foundation; Gold Sponsors - Herzfeld Foundation, Johnson Bank, National Endowment for the Arts, Racine Community Foundation, W. T. Walker Group, Inc.; Silver Sponsors – Andis Foundation, Real Racine, Wisconsin Arts Board; Bronze Sponsors - Burlington Graphic Systems, Inc., CNH Industrial, EC Styberg Foundation, Educators Credit Union, In Sink Erator, The Norbell Foundation, Orkney Springs Retreat, Rasmussen Diamonds, Southern Connecticut Polymer Clay Guild, Wisconsin Public Radio

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Together, the two campuses of the Racine Art Museum, RAM in downtown Racine at 441 Main Street and the Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts at 2519 Northwestern Avenue, seek to elevate the stature of contemporary crafts to that of fine art by exhibiting significant works in craft media with painting, sculpture and photography, while providing outstanding educational art programming.

Docent led contemporary craft and architectural tours of the museums are available. Both campuses of the Racine Art Museum, are open Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, and are closed Mondays, Federal holidays and Easter. RAM is open Sunday Noon – 5:00 pm, while Wustum is closed Sundays. An admission fee of \$5 for adults, with reduced fees for students and seniors, applies at RAM. Admission to Wustum is free. Members are always admitted without charge to either campus.