

ALBUQUERQUE-BASED ARTIST, RICA MAESTAS PRESENTS NEW SOLO
EXHIBITION AT VITAL SPACES

-I'm Sorry (I cannot hold you.) features a new body of work that balances holding on and
letting go.

Opening June 17, 2022, 6-9 PM
For Immediate Release
May 23, 2022



Rica Maestas, *Dermotillomania*, 2022, Acrylic paint and glitter on canvas, 6'x5'

(Santa Fe, NM, May 23, 2022) – Opening June 17 from 6-9 pm, *I'm Sorry (I cannot hold you.)* is a new solo exhibition of multidisciplinary artworks by Rica Maestas at Vital Spaces Midtown Annex gallery [[1600 Saint Michael's Drive SW Annex, Midtown Campus Santa Fe, NM 87505](https://www.vitalspaces.com/santa-fe)].

Running through July 27, 2022, the exhibition explores inherited hurt, permeable boundaries, and catharsis through a selection of paintings, sculptures, and performance documentation. The varied works in the exhibition, many of which were created during Maestas' recent Labor Residency at the Santa Fe Art Institute, attempt to unearth, excise, and exorcize intermingled personal and historical traumas from the body as well as place. Together, the selected works probe various ongoing, multifaceted, and dubious rituals that might someday soothe ancestral curses.

"We are so excited to have Rica's show here at Vital Spaces. Rica's work somehow tugs at every emotion all at once," says Executive Director of Vital Spaces, Raashan Ahmad. "Rica's work invites so much feeling and emotion, then as you think you understand what's going on more layers are uncovered. The experience is beautiful and jarring and perfect."

The exhibition will be available for viewing by appointment and during open hours to be determined. Contact Rica Maestas at ricamaestas@gmail.com to schedule a viewing time.

I'm Sorry (I cannot hold you.) coincides with Axle Contemporary Mobile Artspace's July 1-3 weekend screening of *Yucca goes to group*, a performance work and accompanying activation by Rica Maestas (time TBD). Maestas will also present work as part of the Santa Fe Art Institute's SFAI140 event on June 24. Exploring similar themes through different projects, these events complement and inform *I'm Sorry (I cannot hold you.)*.

About Rica Maestas

Rica Maestas is an artist, author, and arts worker from Albuquerque, NM. Her artistic practice nurtures spaces where no one has to be whole, where there is no need to justify your existence and you can be intimate like a dog, with co-presence and gesture alone. Inspired by home, loneliness, hybridity, and misunderstanding, Maestas makes little treasures, gifts, offerings, and rituals as invitations into dreamy and emotionally demanding spaces.

Maestas holds a MA in public humanities from Brown University and has received numerous grants for her socially engaged projects, performances, paintings, and assemblages. Her multidisciplinary practice has included exhibiting artwork and curating independent and institutional projects, publishing written work in diverse forums, and participating in the Santa Fe Art Institute's Labor Residency. Profiles of her artistic and curatorial work have appeared in the Providence Journal, the Brown Daily Herald, and the Coastal Post.

About Vital Spaces

Vital Spaces is a Santa Fe-based 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to sustain and enhance Santa Fe's cultural vibrancy by creating affordable spaces for artists working in all media to create, present, connect, and teach.

VISUALS AVAILABLE
FURTHER INFORMATION ON RICA MAESTAS CAN BE FOUND AT
RICAMAESTAS.COM
FOLLOW RICA MAESTAS ON [INSTAGRAM](#)

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