



**Dr. Vicente Carrillo**

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Wednesday, October 26, 2022  
4:00pm  
1002 Lincoln Hall

## **Brown Regions, White Galleries: rafa esparza's "de la Calle"**

In this talk Dr. Vicente Carrillo explores how queer of color artists imagine belonging in the gentrifying terrains of East L.A. Thinking alongside queer brown artist rafa esparza's 2018 public performance, *de la Calle*, Carrillo explores the region of *los callejones* – an informal street vendor economy located in Los Angeles' Fashion District. Re-working the space into a catwalk, rafa foregrounds a queer brown working-class aesthetic that pushes against the global economy of "high-fashion," an industry that has continuously deployed state violence to discipline this – "counterfeit" – working-class economy. Thinking of East LA through queerness and queerness through East LA, this talk refuses the racial and gendered scripts that have framed East LA as a "dangerous" area or a zone of hyper-activism. Through rafa's public performances, Carrillo argues that queer artists of color, while straddling the contested terrains of artwashing, find distinct ways to re-embed queerness into the East LA imaginary, an act that centers queer pleasure as integral to placemaking.



For those who would like to view the talk over Zoom, go to:

<https://illinois.zoom.us/j/81779150104?pwd=SWNwVmp4djJhTEZtODIBUGFHZ2hSQTO9>