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NEW plaza exhibition: “Los Trompos”, ten 3D spinning tops designed by Mexican artists @hesrawe & Ignacio Cadena arrive @KimmelCenter, plus “Look Up! Look In” with Philly-based Karina Puente. Experience for FREE, 8/19 – 11/17. Info at [kimmelcenter.org](http://kimmelcenter.org) #ArtHappensHere

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**KIMMEL CENTER OPENS NEW, FREE & INTERACTIVE  
PLAZA EXHIBITION  
FEATURING TWO ART INSTALLATIONS  
AS PART OF ONGOING PLAZA PROGRAMMING  
AUGUST 19 – NOVEMBER 17**

***LOS TROMPOS,***  
**10 LARGER-THAN-LIFE SPINNING TOPS**  
**DESIGNED BY MEXICAN ARTISTS ESRAWE AND CADENA**

***LOOK UP! LOOK IN***  
**KIMMEL CENTER-COMMISSIONED AERIAL COMPANION**  
**FEATURING 53 HAND-CUT PANELS**  
**DESIGNED BY LOCAL MEXICAN-AMERICAN ARTIST, KARINA PUENTE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** (Philadelphia, PA, August 13, 2019) – Come for the seat. Stay for the spin! But *Look Up! Look In...* The Kimmel Center Cultural Campus is excited to open a new, 3-month, FREE Plaza exhibition featuring works from multiple Mexican artists. *Los Trompos*, an interactive installation in

Commonwealth Plaza, **brings to life ten 3D spinning tops**; Philadelphians are invited to sit or spin on the structures, fulfilling the artists' vision for collaboration and community interaction as the public works together to make the structures move. The creations of Mexican designers Héctor Esrawe and Ignacio Cadena, these colorful sculptures are created by artists utilizing a traditional fabric weave and appear in varied shapes and colors. The Kimmel Center has commissioned **Look Up! Look In** by Mexican-American, Philadelphia-based artist Karina Puente and Karina Puente Arts International. Puente has designed "Papel Picado", 53 hand-cut panels suspended above the Commonwealth Plaza. The installations are 5-foot wide and range between 6-12 feet long.

*Los Trompos* (translated to "The Spinning Tops") and *Look Up! Look In* are part of the Kimmel Center Cultural Campus' ongoing Commonwealth Plaza activation & FREE programming, following the popular *Swing @ the Kimmel* virtual reality installation this winter.

"These spinning tops are visually stunning and excitingly experiential," said Ed Cambron, Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. "This multi-faceted installation from collaborators Héctor Esrawe and Ignacio Cadena is one piece of our ongoing legacy of bringing international artists to Philadelphia. We are also thrilled to once again commission new art for local audiences through a partnership with our city's own Karina Puente. Her companion aerial piece entitled *Look Up! Look In* perfectly complements our vision to *transform lives daily through the arts*, inspiring guests to experience art in new and diverse ways."

"It is exhilarating to pair the work of a local Mexican-American artist in the air with the spinning sculptures from Mexico City of *Los Trompos* on the ground – giving us all a chance to celebrate and recognize these two traditional crafts and having it all come together to bring our Plaza to life," said Jay Wahl, Producing Artistic Director of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts.

The *Los Trompos* installation was first commissioned by the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, Georgia, and premiered in 2015 in the Woodruff Arts Center's Carroll Slater Sifly Piazza. Since then *Los Trompos* has traveled throughout the United States, appearing in Houston, Texas; West Palm Beach, Florida; UNC Chapel Hill, North Carolina; and Scottsdale, Arizona.

"Papel Picado", or "perforated paper/pecked paper", originally derived from the Aztecs, specifically within the San Salvador Huixcolotla area of Mexico, and is created by crafting shapes into paper. Papel picado is also at times associated with air as an element. Headed by Puente, Karina Puente Arts International is a female-run, Philadelphia-based studio. Puente's work has been displayed at Columbia University, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Studios at Mass MoCA, Corcoran National Gallery, Miami MoCA, Weeksville Heritage Center in Brooklyn, the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, and Elverhoj Museum of History and Art.

Puente credits her upbringing and heritage when speaking of the papel picado artform: "My custom, hand cut patterns root my practice in tradition and keep me connected to ancestors. Weekly family calls with my Tias in Santa Barbara always result in an AHA! moment. Through the exhibition *Look Up! Look In*, my aim is to articulate the spark of a new idea, arrive at solution-oriented thinking, and fly high during this important cultural moment."

#### ***Los Trompos* and *Look Up! Look In* dates and hours of operation**

- Monday, August 19 – Sunday, November 17

- *Los Trompos* is available for public use at any time during normal building operating hours (10 AM – 6 PM, Daily).

### **Tickets**

*Los Trompos* and *Look Up! Look In* are FREE. The Kimmel Center is the region's most impactful performing arts organization and a non-profit – donations received by guests enjoying the installations will go toward the Kimmel Center's education programs and institutional initiatives. Participants are encouraged to text K-I-M-M-E-L to 444999 to donate. More information at [www.kimmelcenter.org](http://www.kimmelcenter.org).

### **The Kimmel Center Cultural Campus**

Located in the heart of Center City, Philadelphia, our mission is to engage the region's diverse communities with art through performance and education. Our Cultural Campus serves more than 1 million guests per year and includes the **Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts**, the **Academy of Music**, and the **Merriam Theater**- representing more than 160 years of rich history for the performing arts along Philadelphia's Avenue of the Arts. We are home to eight esteemed Resident Companies: **The Philadelphia Orchestra**, **Opera Philadelphia**, **Pennsylvania Ballet**, **The Philly POPS**, **PHILADANCO**, **The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia**, **The Philadelphia Chamber Music Society**, and **Curtis Institute of Music**. With nearly 9,000 seats per night, we are the region's most impactful performing arts center, and the second largest in the country. Our Cultural Campus serves as a preeminent and inclusive place to enjoy exceptional experiences that reflect the spirit of our region by cultivating a creative and socially responsible environment where our community shares experiences that are delivered with pride, integrity, and respect. As a 501 c 3 nonprofit organization, we collaborate on, present, and produce a broad range of relevant and meaningful events, we serve as an active gathering space for social and community events, we educate the region's young people through access to quality arts experiences, and we provide support to artists in the creation of new work. TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank, is our proud sponsor of the Kimmel Center's 2019-2020 Season. American Airlines is the official airline of Broadway Philadelphia. For additional information, visit [www.kimmelcenter.org](http://www.kimmelcenter.org).

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