

## Colombian Artist Commissioned to Bring Innovative Site-Specific Art Installation to Low-Income Youth in Santa Ana

**Santa Ana, Calif. (December 1, 2014)** - A site-specific art installation constructed by recognized **Colombian artist Ana Belén Cantoni** and commissioned by the **Sayago & Pardon Collection** is set to be unveiled at **The Wooden Floor**, an innovative arts-for-youth nonprofit in Orange County. The breathtaking new work, created from hundreds of fabric hands joined together, was influenced by The Wooden Floor's value of community and the connections that are being made through its free afterschool dance, academic, and family service programs for low-income youth. The artist envisions the work as being "a caress in space, like a gesture of love" to evoke the feeling of collectivity present at The Wooden Floor. It will envelope the two-story lobby of the organization's 21,000 square foot facility in the Museum District of Santa Ana that sees hundreds of low-income students and their families each day.



Ana Belén Cantoni, a **Fulbright scholar** and Fellow of the San Francisco Foundation, has exhibited work throughout Canada, the United States, and Colombia, and will travel from her home country to The Wooden Floor specifically to install the piece made from dyed red fabric and clothespins. This exhibition is part of the Sayago & Pardon Collection's **Abstraction in Action** initiative, which focuses on contemporary abstract art in Latin America, and will mirror The Wooden Floor's dedication to working with leading choreographers in a contemporary dance aesthetic that values exploration, discovery, and innovation. Through its initiatives, Sayago & Pardon hopes to promote intercultural dialogue, awareness, the enjoyment of art through exhibitions, art projects and educational and public programs.

"From the moment Sayago & Pardon first toured our campus, we have been overwhelmed by their generosity, through both financial support and by exposing our students to thought-provoking art exhibits that inspire them inside the dance studio, at home, and at school" states **The Wooden Floor Executive Director & Co-CEO Dawn S. Reese**. "The fact that they curate the exhibits exclusively for our students is amazing. By bringing museum-quality work from Latin American artists who contribute to the contemporary art field deeply resonates with our students who come from multi-cultural backgrounds and who are active contributors to the contemporary dance genre themselves."

Many students call The Wooden Floor their second home and a respite from the everyday struggles of living below the poverty line. Cantoni hopes her art will create a place of calm. "With this piece, I explore a way of turning fabric into a tridimensional mass, by altering the fabric repeatedly to create volume," she explains. "I imagine it becoming a translucent cloud that irradiates red light, soft and ethereal."

"We love the way Ana utilizes fabric and the idea of community and fluid movement associated with this piece. There will also be works on paper associated with the installation that deal with the artist exploring color and texture through this process" states **Sayago & Pardon Co-Founder Nicholas Pardon**. "We love collaborating with The Wooden Floor, being able to display art and allow these young people to learn from and experience it on a daily basis."

This will be the third exhibition of contemporary Latin American art for students at The Wooden Floor. Previous artists have included **Argentine artist Gala Berger** and **Mexican artist Anibal Catalan**. It will run from **January 23-December 31, 2015**, with a free drop-in showing open to the public on Friday, January 23, 2015, from 10am-2pm.

### **About The Wooden Floor**

Since 1983, over 80,000 young lives have been touched by The Wooden Floor. At our Santa Ana campus, we annually give under-served local youth the tools to live fuller, healthier lives through a unique approach grounded in dance. Our young artists collaborate with recognized choreographers to create unexpected and challenging works of contemporary dance. We make a long-term investment in each of these young people. They engage in intensive dance education supported by academic and family services that change the way

they make decisions, helping them to discover and pursue their full potential. We are proud that **since 2005, 100 percent of our seniors have graduated from high school on time and have immediately gone on to pursue higher education**—a rate about three times the national average for their socioeconomic peers. [www.TheWoodenFloor.org](http://www.TheWoodenFloor.org)

#### **About the Artist**

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Ana Cantoni (born 1983 in Peru) is a visual artist exploring the subject of architecture and its relationship to the body, one of restraint that denies both the body and the landscape. She completed her BFA at the National University of Colombia and her MFA at the San Francisco Art Institute. Cantoni has been awarded with a Fulbright scholarship (2008), a Colfuturo Scholarship (2009) and a Phelan, Murphy and Cadogan Fellowship (2010). She was an artist-in-residence at the Banff Centre in Canada and has exhibited internationally, including at the Art Museum of the Americas (Washington, DC), The Museum of the National University of Colombia (Bogotá, Colombia), the Kitsch Gallery (San Francisco, CA), and The Mexican Consulate in San Francisco (San Francisco, CA), among others. She lives and works in Colombia. [www.anabelcantoni.laveneno.org](http://www.anabelcantoni.laveneno.org)

#### **About Sayago & Pardon**

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Saygo & Pardon was founded in 2007 by Sammy Sayago and Nicholas Pardon with an initial focus in modern and contemporary art. In 2012 the Sayago & Pardon Collection established a new focus on contemporary Latin American abstraction. A key catalyst for their collection is the desire to share it with an extended public, as the enjoyment of art is best when it is 'seen' with other people. As the Collection is in Southern California, a region containing an extensive Latino and Latin American population, one of its chief goals is to promote a dialogue between Los Angeles and Latin America. Sayago & Pardon recently opened SPACE in Irvine, California, which will constitute a key site for housing and displaying the collection, producing exhibitions and events that will foster new dynamics to the Southern California art scene based on exchange, new knowledge, and the shared enjoyment of contemporary art.

[www.SayagoPardon.com](http://www.SayagoPardon.com)

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From January 19-23, 2015, **members of the media** are invited to attend the installation of the work to talk with the artist.  
*To schedule an interview the artists, Sayago & Pardon, or The Wooden Floor, please contact Payal Kumar Avellan at 714.541.8314 ext. 119 or [Payal@TheWoodenFloor.org](mailto:Payal@TheWoodenFloor.org).*