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Local Artists Explore Identity and Diversity in WHO ARE YOU, MOLAA's First Exhibit of 2016

by ASIA MORRIS (/ASIA) (HTTP://TWITTER.COM/THEASIAMORRIS)

on DECEMBER 23 2015 14:59 in ARTS & CULTURE (/LIFE/ARTS-CULTURE)

Comment 1 (/LIFE/ARTS-CULTURE/2000007819-MOLAA-WHO-ARE-YOU#DISQUS_THREAD)

Images courtesy of the artists. De chile mole y dulce *by student Cintia Segovia.*

How do you read others' physical characteristics? How do you emphasize (or hide) your own? What makes you unique and how do these signifiers compose your identity? These are the questions explored in *Who Are You*, the inaugural exhibition at the Museum of Latin American Art's (MOLAA) Port to Learning gallery, a new space now dedicated to providing interactive programming and showing the work of local artists and emerging curators.

Who Are You presents works by 14 local artists in dialogue with pieces from the museum's Permanent Collection. Curated by Gabriela Martínez with Nalini Elias, the exhibit explores how we choose to express facets of our identities through language, clothing, traditions, the food we consume and our own bodies.

Gabriella Martínez let the *Post* in on how she and Elias first formulated the idea for *Who Are You* and what she hopes visitors will take away from a trip to the museum's newest space. Martínez noted that Long Beach was an inspiration in itself as one of the most diverse cities in the nation, not only in regard to race or ethnicity, but also gender, sexuality, religion and class. All the works in *Who Are You* explore identity through these specific lenses.