

Dear Friends,

Certainly, this season was memorable for FLAX, as I am sure it has been for all of you. Though for our curtain call, we would have wished for something more uplifting than confinement and curfew, we bring FLAX to closure with the knowledge that we accomplished what we originally set out to do.

Our first thoughts are for the victims of the pandemic, the communities affected by longstanding inequalities and racial injustice, for those who are suffering from the consequences of the economic downturn and, of course, for the artistic community which is impacted more than most.

So instead of ending with a Bang, Flax will close down with a whisper.

Our mission has always been to promote mutual understanding between the diverse communities of Southern California and France. But our work was to serve artists and curators on both continents, and it is time to reflect on how those artists were touched by FLAX, and in turn we were touched by them, since its inception in 2006.

With our residency programs, over 60 artists were invited to present their work and conduct research while interacting with the Southern California art scene- Our cycle of exhibitions, be they featuring multiple artists such as in *Lost (inLA)* or *Paroxysm of Sublime*, thematic such as in *Pioneers & Entrepreneurs*, or simply introducing artists in conversations, screenings or performances, has presented numerous creations and engaged diverse audiences.

True to our philosophy, we have collaborated with dozens of cultural institutions, including MOCA, Fowler Museum, Grand Performances, Grand Park, LACE; and ICA LA, among others, not to forget most of LA's art schools - and more recently with high schools. In today's climate, we should mention "*Maybe Some of Us Will Change This*", the project conceived by artists duo Brognon-Rollin with the Metropolitan Continuation High School in downtown Los Angeles to raise students' voices in their community.

To fulfill that mission, we were helped by a committed and generous Board, a great team with Elisabeth Forney, our Executive Director, Anna Milone our Program Director and Curator, Olga Garay-English our special advisor and friend, and all the donors that have helped us through these 14 years of French Cultural Exchanges in Los Angeles.

We are grateful for all the relationships built through our work at FLAX, and I know each of us will continue to be involved in the arts in different ways, so this is merely au revoir.

Lionel Sauvage
FLAX Co-Founder and President