

**Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning
presents
Jessica Alazraki:
Portraits of Latino Immigrants**



On view: November 6 - December 12, 2020

Press Opening: November 6, 12-6PM

By appointment at JCAL's Community Gallery

161-04 Jamaica Ave, Jamaica, NY 11432

And online at [JCAL.org/jessica-alazraki](https://www.jcal.org/jessica-alazraki)

October 21, 2020 (New York) -- Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning (JCAL) is pleased to present *Portraits of Latino Immigrants*, an exhibition of paintings by Jessica Alazraki. Opening the week of the presidential election, the exhibition offers glimpses into the everyday lives of Latinx families in the US, with its combination of bright patterns and colors and muted expressions; it is a reminder of a common humanity

that we share even in politically heated and divisive times. The artist is a recipient of the 2020 Queens Art Fund New Work Grant, awarded by the Queens Council on the Arts.

Portraits of Latino Immigrants will be exhibited at JCAL's Community Gallery from November 6 to December 12, 2020, with a Press Opening on November 6, 12-6PM by appointment. Members of the press can email JCAL Visual Arts Program Associate Naomi Kuo at nkuo@jcal.org to RSVP.

On Saturdays, November 14 and December 5, 12-5PM, the artist will be present in the gallery to engage in conversation with the audience. General public hours are Monday-Friday, 10AM-6PM. All visits must be made by appointment -- see [JCAL.org/visit-the-gallery](https://www.jcal.org/visit-the-gallery) for more information, including visitor capacity and safety precautions. An Artist Talk will be live-streamed onto the JCAL Youtube Channel from the gallery on November 14 at 3PM with a limited in-person audience ([RSVP here](#)).

About her work, the artist writes:

As a Mexican woman living in New York, I feel it is my responsibility to open up a dialogue about immigrants. My work intends to respond to the political climate surrounding Latinx immigrants -- one full of controversy. During the pandemic, the Hispanic communities were some of the most affected.

My paintings have a positive and colorful vibe; they intend to be a celebration of Latinx life in the US and aim to highlight family values. The narrative shows typical situations of ordinary people in which everyone can recognize that moment as their own.

Jessica Alazraki was born and raised in Mexico City and has been based in NYC since 1998. She earned a bachelor's degree in Communications from Universidad Anáhuac, a Diploma in Graphic Design from Parsons School of Design in New York City, and a Certificate in Drawing & Painting from The New York Academy of Art.

She has exhibited her work in the US in three solo exhibitions and over 40 group shows in both the US and Mexico. She recently completed the Trestle Art Space Residency and took part in the 2019 ARTWorks fellowship at the JCAL. In 2019 she was accepted into the Creative Capital N.Y.C. "El taller program," in collaboration with Hemispheric Institute.

This exhibition is made possible (in part) by the Queens Council on the Arts with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

About JCAL

Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning (JCAL), founded in 1972, is a multidisciplinary arts center based in the diverse community of Southeast Queens. Our mission is devoted to offering quality visual, performing, and literary arts, and to providing accessible education programs to encourage participation in the arts. JCAL is open to the public on a limited basis by appointment only. Temporary operating hours: Monday through Friday, 10am to 6pm, and select Saturdays, 12pm to 5pm; closed Sundays and major holidays. For additional information, call JCAL at 718-658-7400 or visit [JCAL.org](https://www.jcal.org).

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