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Application Committee
IAC International Academy of Ceramics
AIC-IAC, Musée Ariana,
10 Avenue de la Paix, 1202 Geneva - Switzerland

Dear IAC Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Cristina Córdova's application for membership in the International Academy of Ceramics.

My journey into Cristina's ceramic sculpture began in 2007 while studying at the University of South Carolina. As a Colombian international student, I sought to reconnect with my heritage and explore artists relevant to my background. My professors introduced me to Cristina's work and her sculptures as a talented and prolific Puerto Rican artist, and her exquisite ceramics resonated deeply with me. Her intricate human and animal figures embodied a powerful synergy of material and motion, creating pure visual poetry.

In 2010, I was privileged to attend Cristina's workshop, "Figure: Form & Content," where I experienced her generous and approachable teaching style firsthand. Since then, I have followed her artistic voyage through various workshops and exhibitions, continuously admiring her exceptional talent and professionalism. Her remarkable figurative sculptures consistently express the powerful human experience, embodying themes of identity, race, beliefs, and social constructs.

Over the past 12 years, I have witnessed the evolution of Cristina's teaching methods, which are innovative and accessible to students of all levels. Despite her widespread recognition—through representation in prestigious galleries, acquisition by museum collections, and reviews in books and magazines—Cristina remains a humble and welcoming artist and mother, significantly impacting others and deepening our fondness for ceramics.

Cristina is a versatile sculptor whose artistic practice encompasses drawing, illustration, printmaking, stop-motion, and dance. She continually pushes her physical and intellectual boundaries with large-scale anatomical works and innovative mixed-media approaches, combining clay, wood, textiles, and glass. Her unique clay and glaze formulations, firing atmosphere explorations, and complex installations highlight her commitment to evolving and taking risks. Cristina has also challenged traditional stereotypes, reshaping the narrative in a field that has been male-dominated until recently.

Cristina's artistic vision and determination have encouraged numerous Latino artists, particularly young women, to envision futures dedicated to ceramics, fostering pride in our rich Hispanic heritage. Furthermore, she has created opportunities for many to explore their creative potential within this medium, cultivating a large international community of figurative ceramicists influenced by her distinctive style. This influence underscores her capacity to engage her audience and highlights her significant contributions to contemporary ceramic art.

As an accomplished studio owner, curriculum designer, businesswoman, author, and director of The Center for the Study of Figurative Ceramics, I wholeheartedly recommend Cristina Córdova for membership in the International Academy of Ceramics. She exemplifies the qualities of an extraordinary artist and educator, and her presence would undoubtedly enrich our esteemed community. Cristina will be an active contributor and a passionate ambassador for the IAC, inspiring others with her vision and dedication while invigorating and elevating the field of Latin American ceramics and beyond.

Thank you for considering this recommendation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Diana Farfán Valente". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Diana" being the most prominent part.

Diana Farfán Valente
Artist. Educator. Cultural agent.
IAC Member, 2019