



yam gallery

A solo show
by
Betsabeé Romero

**THE
ARMORY
SHOW**

YAM Gallery presents a solo exhibition by **Betsabeé Romero** (b. 1963, CDMX), bringing together photographs, wooden sculptures, and works made from used tires sourced from Mexico City's public transportation. The show centers on Romero's sustained exploration of migration, memory, mobility, labor, and collective identity, using the automobile and the road as symbolic language.

At the core of the presentation are large-format photographs, 47.24 x 31.5 in, documenting public interventions with abandoned automobiles in Mexico, the United States, and beyond. For the Armory Show 2026, YAM Gallery highlights documentation from two foundational projects: *Proyecto Binacional* (2000) and *Bienal InSite* (1997). These photographs are displayed alongside scale maquettes of the original vehicles used

in the interventions. The early actions laid the groundwork for a broader body of automobile-based works later realized in France, the Netherlands, the United States, and Mexico. This series has been exhibited internationally and is held in collections including the Museo Universitario de Arte Contemporáneo (MUAC) in Mexico City and the Daros Collection in Zurich.

AYATE CAR

Project carried out within the framework of the InSite Biennial 1997. A 1950s Ford Victoria found in Colonia Libertad—stronghold of cultural resistance and birthplace of the Tijuana pachuco Low Rider movement—was installed next to the border wall. The work reflects on the automobile as a symbol and vehicle of human movement and cultural resignification. With the participation of the community, the artist covered the car in burlap, painted it in oil, and filled it with ten thousand dried roses to turn it into a cultural device.

- Photography, 47.24 x 31.5 in. Edition of three.
- 2025

- Car model 11.81 x 15.74 in
- 2026

- 22,000 USD



PETATE JUSTICIERO

The Binational Project addresses migratory and cross-border phenomena between Mexico and the USA. For this piece, the petate is used; a traditional Mexican weave made of tule and natural fibers that, among its multiple functions, serves as a bed mat, grain dryer, and for the manufacture of hats, toys, and baskets. It is an essential component of the popular and pre-Hispanic culture of ancient Mexico. In this work, the notion that migration also entails the displacement of objects, uses, and customs that give identity to a community—such as the Hispanic community of East Los Angeles where this work was presented in 2000—is manifested literally.

- Photography, 47.24 x 31.5 in. Edition of three.
- 2025

- Car model 11.81 x 15.74 in
- 2026

- 22,000 USD



PIEL DE CASA

A 1955 Hillman automobile covered in a skin of talavera mosaic tiles salvaged from a hacienda in Yucatán. Created in 2000 as part of Proyecto Binacional, the work emerged from a collaborative intervention involving ten unusable cars transformed in neighborhoods considered dangerous in both Mexico City and Los Angeles. Romero worked alongside mechanics, auto-parts producers, and local communities to collectively resignify the automobile as a vessel of cultural memory and resilience.

- Photography, 47.24 x 31.5 in. Edition of three.
- 2025

- Car model 11.81 x 15.74 in
- 2026

- 22,000 USD



TRAMA TRANSURBANA

The image seems taken from a magical realism novel: an elderly lady knits a car cover on a narrow street in Colonia Buenos Aires in CDMX, sitting in front of a Vocho (the most popular car in Mexico's history) following the instructions given by the artist. The knitter of chamvbritas—a hand-knitting technique used for making baby sweaters—puts in the final stitches of a project that has taken months of work. The photograph captures the result of a contemporary art action that intervenes in public space.

- Photography, 47.24 x 31.5 in. Edition of three.
- 2025

- Car model 11.81 x 15.74 in
- 2026

- 22,000 USD



ATERCIOPELADO

In the year 2000, artist Betsabee Romero crossed the border into the USA to continue the Binational Project. In this case, a disused car stored in a garage in an East Los Angeles community was recovered. The car was covered in velvet and painted in oil with an assortment of flowers chosen by members of this community. A work team was formed to participate in the production and the museographic criteria for installing the piece in the public thoroughfare.

- Photography, 47.24 x 31.5 in. Edition of three.
- 2025

- Car model 11.81 x 15.74 in
- 2026

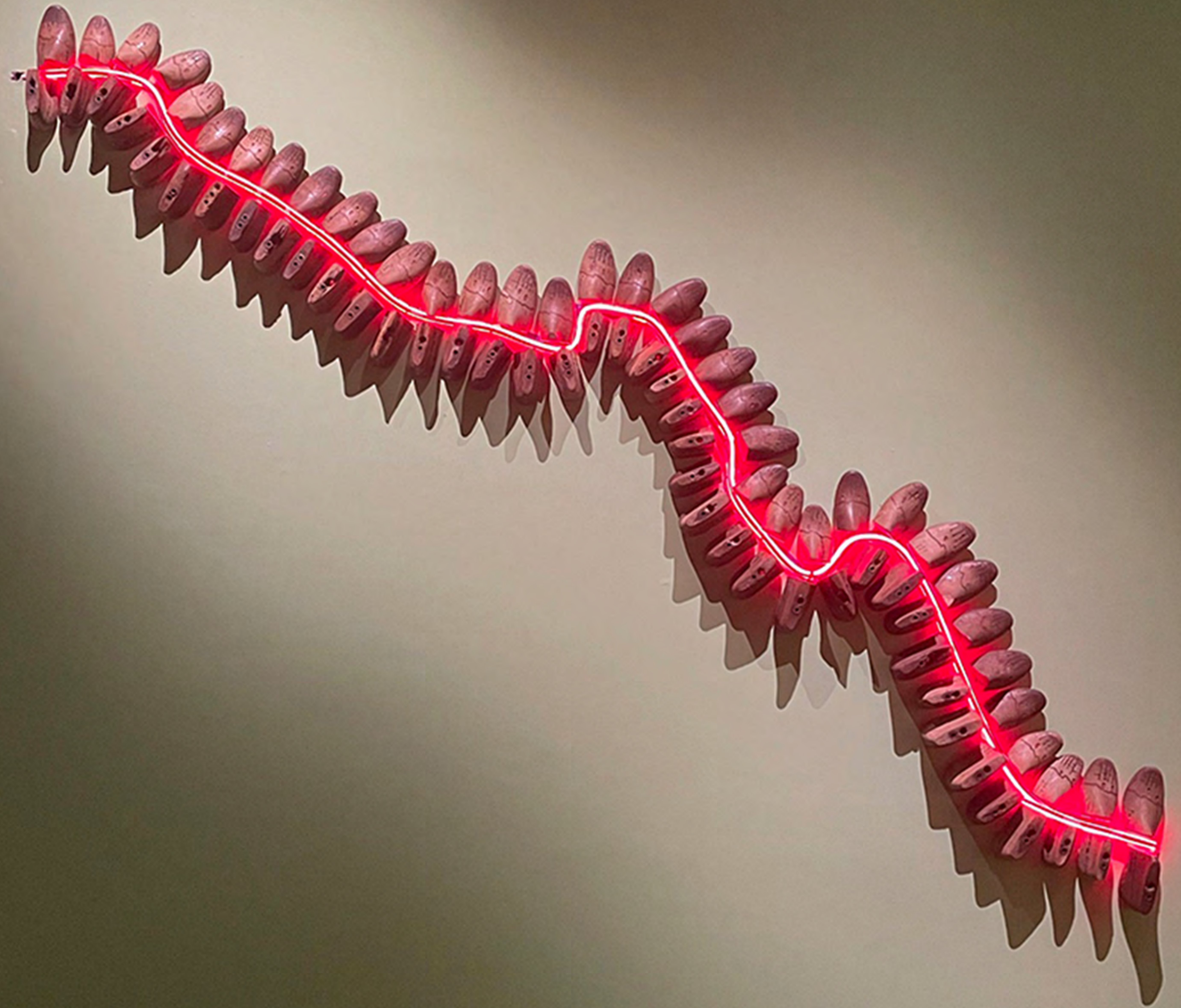
- 22,000 USD



PIES QUE NO RESBALAN

The exhibition also features two key wooden sculpture series. *"Pies que no resbalan"* is a wall installation of 42 wooden shoe lasts engraved with lines from universal poetry. Carved toes, toenails, and scars highlighted in acrylic paint evoke the physical and emotional marks left by migrants on difficult journeys. A neon element traces the Mexico–USA border, the world's busiest crossing, with the lasts metaphorically crossing it in both directions to embody displacement, labor, and survival. The work, with variable dimensions, was shown at MOLAA's pavilion for the official program of the 2024 Venice Biennale and at the Museo de la Ciudad in Mexico City.

- Engraved wooden lasts, and neon.
- Variable dimensions
- 78,000 USD



MUROS PUNZO CORTANTES

"Muros punzocrotantes" uses an endless spiral to reflect on the contemporary migration crisis through an ancient symbolic form. Romero frames migration as a cyclical pilgrimage where beginnings and endings blur. The shoe lasts are carved with gouges that inscribe drawings and texts of the migrant experience directly into the wood. It was presented at the MOLAA pavilion during the 2024 Venice Biennale and previously at the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Querétaro (MACQ).

- Engraved wooden lasts
- 99 in x 99 in
- 2018
- 78,000 USD



QUETZALCOATL EN EL ASFALTO

- Truck tire engraved on both sides with gold leaf and silver leaf applications
- Aplicaciones de hoja de oro y plata
- 36 in x 36 in x 7.5 in
- 2012
- 35,000 USD



EL OJO DE LA SERPIENTE

- Truck tire engraved on both sides with gold leaf and silver leaf applications
- 36 in x 36 in x 7.5 in
- 2014
- 35,000 USD



OUROBOROS EN TRÁNSITO

- Truck tire engraved on both sides with gold leaf and silver leaf applications
- 36 in x 36 in x 7.5 in
- 2016
- 35,000 USD



AL MIGRANTE DESCONOCIDO

- Truck tire engraved on both sides with gold leaf and silver leaf applications
- 6 in x 6 in x 1.5 in
- 2026
- 2,500 USD

