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For immediate release

The facade of Tilton Memorial Hall on Tulane University’s Uptown Campus has a new temporary addition to commemorate the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment. A collaboration between the Amistad Research Center and the Rivers Institute for Contemporary Art & Thought has resulted in the installation of one of Elena del Rivero’s nineteen Suffrage Flags, which are being displayed around the United States. The flag on Tilton Memorial Hall will be on display through December 15, 2020. Details regarding the flag installation and the artist are below. For more information, please contact Christopher Harter, Amistad Research Center Deputy Director at 504.862.3229 or charter@tulane.edu.

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Elena del Rivero: Home Address is a multi-platform initiative defined by nineteen flags designed and suspended across the United States to commemorate the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment. The Nineteenth Amendment legislated women’s right to vote in the United States. The artist’s multiple flags, emblazoned with a common abstract, geometric pattern, also wear the stains of history, in recognition of all those whose rights have not been protected—particularly women of color, whose rights were denied by that landmark legislation.

Del Rivero transfers often-overlooked or underestimated textiles from the kitchen into the public sphere. On the one hand, the forms of her massive dish towels rhyme with the geometries of flags already on display. On the other, they belong to “Letter from Home” (2014-present), the artist’s series that interrogates geometric abstraction; she hopes viewers might also consider how the grids of feminine-coded material culture anticipate heralded “vanguard” developments by male modernists. Thus, beyond merely marking the anniversary of women’s suffrage, del Rivero’s flags initiate new relationships to their surroundings, whether they be galleries or exterior spaces, and new conversations woven from manifold perspectives at the intersection of civics and aesthetics. Above all, they celebrate the everyday labor invested in the perpetual making of a participatory democracy.

Elena del Rivero (b. 1949, Valencia, Spain) is a multi-disciplinary artist known for her works on paper and paintings as well as her sculptures, installations and performances. Del Rivero finds inspiration in everyday life experiences and in symbolic meaning, especially double entendres. She welcomes improvisation and spontaneity into her works and practice, allowing her projects to evolve and grow with time. She was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship (2019) and has had solo exhibitions at the New Museum, the
Corcoran Gallery of Art, the Institut Valencià d’Art Modern, and the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía.

*Elena del Rivero: Home Address* is presented at Tulane University by the Amistad Research Center and Rivers Institute for Contemporary Art & Thought. A second flag was commissioned for Xavier University of Louisiana, by Rivers Institute in coordination with Xavier’s Center for Equity, Justice and the Human Spirit.