

**MEDIA CONTACTS**

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**CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts presents *The Tramp*, Justin Caguiat and Rafael Delacruz's first institutional exhibition on the West Coast**

Justin Caguiat and Rafael Delacruz, production still from *The Tramp*, 2026, (work in progress, 16 mm, color, sound). Courtesy of the artists.

**San Francisco, CA—April 10, 2026**—CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts presents *The Tramp*, an exhibition by Bay Area-based artists Justin Caguiat and Rafael Delacruz. On view June 10 through November 21, 2026, the exhibition brings together a newly commissioned film, installation, painting, and prints, marking the artists' first institutional exhibition on the West Coast.

At the heart of the exhibition is a new film by Caguiat and Delacruz that follows the characters Wesley, his dog Chips, and Hiroko as they wander the streets of Oakland and the fields of Half Moon Bay. Dressed in baggy pants, a snug jacket, and a bowler hat, the film draws upon Charlie Chaplin's iconic character "The Tramp," first introduced in a 1915 silent film of the same name. Originally filmed at Essanay Studios in Fremont, California, Chaplin's Tramp was a mischievous character navigating the margins of a rapidly modernizing society, using wit and humor to evade authority.

For the exhibition at the Wattis, Caguiat and Delacruz transform the gallery into an immersive environment, highlighting the inner workings of their creative, collaborative process. Deconstructed production sets are repurposed as exhibition furniture, while storyboards, behind-the-scenes photographs, costumes, prints, and ephemera are assembled within the exhibition space.

Through humor and pathos, Caguiat and Delacruz draw on their kinship with Chaplin's character to reflect on the demands of the art world and the changing social landscape of San Francisco. Developed through the artists' ongoing collaboration, the exhibition includes paintings and drawings that have been passed between the artists. *The Tramp* offers a view into their shared practice while inviting reflection on both the precarity and possibility in contemporary life.

The **opening reception** for *The Tramp* is June 10, 2026 from 6 to 8 pm.

Justin Caguiat and Rafael Delacruz: *The Tramp* is curated by Daisy Nam, Zlot Family director and chief curator and Diego Villalobos, former associate curator.

The Wattis Institute is generously supported by Mary and Harold Zlot, Teiger Foundation, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, and San Francisco Grants for the Arts; the Wattis Leadership Circle: Jonathan Gans, Abigail Turin, and Katie and Matt Paige; and the Curators' Forum members. Phyllis C. Wattis was the generous founding patron.

### **About CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts**

Founded in 1998, the Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts at the California College of the Arts (CCA) is a nonprofit exhibition venue and research institute focused on contemporary art and ideas. The Wattis commissions and showcases new work by emerging and established artists from around the world. Additionally, an entire year is dedicated to exploring the work of a single artist or idea, informing exhibitions, public programs, and publications. The Wattis is free and open to all.

### **CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

#### ***The Tramp***

Opening Reception: Wednesday, June 10, 6 to 8 pm

Exhibition on View: June 10—November 21, 2026

**Location:** 145 Hooper Street, San Francisco

**Gallery hours:** Wednesday–Saturday, 12–6 pm

**Admission:** Free and open to the public

Information: [wattis.org](http://wattis.org) or 415-355-9670

Social: [Instagram](#) // [Twitter](#) // [Facebook](#) @WattisArts