





Church Doors Opening Out to Warehouses
St. Mark's Missionary Baptist Church, San Bernardino | 2024

To Rise Above Ruins

T A M A R A C E D R É

The sigh of history rises over ruins...Visual surprise is natural in the Caribbean—it comes with the landscape, and faced with its beauty, the sigh of history dissolves...but, poetry conjugates both tenses simultaneously: the past and the present.

—Derek Walcott

To Rise Above Ruins takes inspiration from Caribbean poet Derek Walcott, who ruminates on how cultures persist under the threat of erasure and how the process of poetry — like photography — can be one of excavation and self-discovery to reclaim and heal historical wounds.

Artist Tamara Cedré builds her work upon this notion by creating a visual dialogue between archival materials (advertisements, historical photographs, news articles, family scrapbooks) and her own photographic responses. Looking closely at imagery produced in the era of World War II economic boom and the Cold War, a period known as “the American Century,” Cedré uncovers layers of history to reveal how land has been used and shaped in the service of power. This exhibition engages past and present to create a photographic commons for Cedré and the communities she calls home in Puerto Rico and Southern California, questioning legacies of empire at a critical moment in our country’s history.

JUNE 5

Panel @ UCR Culver Center, 5pm
Reception @ Riverside Art Museum, 7pm

MAR 29 - SEPT 28, 2025

On View

Curated by Dr. Catherine Gudis



RAM RIVERSIDE
ART MUSEUM