



For immediate release

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**1920'S STEAMBOAT REPLICA FEATURING PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION BY WORLD
PRESS PHOTO WINNER SOFIA VALIENTE OPENS IN BELLE GLADE ON FRIDAY,
AUGUST 6TH 10-12 P.M.**

BELLE GLADE, Fla. (July 28, 2021) – The unique public art installation from Sofia Valiente's award winning project ***Foreverglades*** has made its final journey to Belle Glade where it has been acquired by the Lawrence E. Will Museum. Donated to the City of Belle Glade by the artist, the exhibit immortalizes the rich stories of the people and history featured in Valiente's photographic work and has become a centerpiece and celebration of the community's deep roots. ***Roseada***, the name of the last 1920's steamboat to operate on Lake Okeechobee, and for which the steamboat replica was based off of, has made its way home after debuting in West Palm Beach at the Stub Canal Turning Basin in 2019.

“Six and a half years after moving into an old remodeled rooming house apartment in downtown Belle Glade, my epic journey comes to its end in the very first place it all began. Belle Glade is a hidden gem. The town’s history is the heritage of the Northern Everglades and its story connects all of us in South Florida. How we went from a swamp to making the land livable for everyone and the stories of the individuals that came here bravely, and on their own accord, to pave their own paths. Whether you were a farmer or a farm worker, everyone arrived for the same purpose: to make a better life for themselves. This is the spirit of America’s pioneer origins. The **Roseada** steamboat is a personification of the perseverance and strength of the pioneers and, as an artist, my work now comes to its full fruition. I’ve brought the stories of the Glades to its sister community, West Palm Beach and now I will be gifting this experience to the community of the Glades and it’s visitors” explains Valiente.

Its acquisition to the Lawrence E. Will Museum and donation and installation to the City of Belle Glade was sponsored and made possible by U.S. Sugar and Florida Crystals Corporation. “Bringing back local history and its link to agriculture so that people can learn more about our community is large part of our public education program. The Roseada steamboat exhibit is truly an extraordinary opportunity to fulfill that purpose in an exciting new way,” says US Sugar Senior Director of Corporate Communications and Public Affairs and Belle Glade resident Judy C. Sanchez.

Opening Day for **Roseada** is Friday, August 6, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the steamboat site, located at the north end of the Lawrence E. Will Museum, 530 S Main St, Belle Glade, FL 33430. Regular visiting hours are Monday- Thursday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

Visit www.facebook.com/RootedintheMuck for event updates and information.

About Sofia Valiente:

Sofia Valiente is an award-winning photographer and interdisciplinary artist with two published books “Miracle Village” (2014) and “Foreverglades” (2019). In 2015, she received the World Press Photo award for Miracle Village (1st prize, portraits, stories). Sofia's work has been published in Time, The Guardian, Smithsonian, Vice, American Photo Magazine, and many other media outlets. Her projects have been exhibited internationally with solo shows in NYC, London, Paris and Munich and in numerous other group shows in museums and photography festivals around the world. To learn more about Sofia’s work, you can visit her website at www.sofiavaliente.com or follow her on Instagram at @valiente_sofia