

New Ruiz-Healy Art exhibit dives into blue

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Photo: Courtesy Ruiz-Healy Art

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Richard Armendariz' acrylic-on-paper piece "This is What You Want/This is What You Need" is part of the group show "Blue is Not a Color" at Ruiz-Healy

Casie Lomeli has spent a lot of time lately pondering the color blue. Lomeli, senior gallery assistant for Ruiz-Healy Art, is providing fodder for others to contemplate the hue via "Blue is Not a Color," an exhibit she curated that opens Wednesday at the gallery.

The idea for the show, which includes both figurative and abstract works, was first sparked by an article in the online journal Artsy about blue, part of a series exploring various colors.

Lomeli noticed that a number of artists associated with the gallery often work in blue, include Jesse Amado, whose pieces frequently include the intense International Klein Blue. That indicated to Lomeli that she was onto something with her idea for the show.

“We do have a number of artists who are working in the color for very personal reasons. And we also have artists that were approached with the theme and asked to create artwork within that construct,” she said. “I like that duality there.”

She also is pleased that the show is evenly split between established artists on the Ruiz-Healy roster — Amado, Richard Armendariz, Cecilia Biagini and Cecilia Paredes — and up-and-coming guest artists — Cade Bradshaw, Jennifer Ling Datchuk, Deliasofia Zacarias and Andrea Reyes.

“One thing I’m really passionate about is inviting a younger generation of artists and emerging artists and giving them the space to create work and show their work,” said Lomeli, 25. “As a younger woman myself, I feel like if I’m in a position to help my younger colleagues, that’s something I would like to do.”

The show also is a professional milestone for Lomeli: It’s the first she has curated.

“It’s overwhelming in all of the best ways,” said Lomeli, who first came to work at the gallery in the fall of 2014, during her senior year at Trinity University, and began working there full time the following spring. “It feels like everything has kind of come full circle — it’s been a great learning experience, as I’m figuring out my place in the community and in the art world.”

“Blue is Not a Color” opens with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Ruiz-Healy Art, 201-A E. Olmos Drive. The exhibit can be seen through Sept. 1. Info, 210- 804-2219; ruizhealyart.com.

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