

RUIZ-HEALY ART

Latinx, Latin America, & Texas Contemporary Art

Ruiz-Healy Art is pleased to present *Alejandro Diaz: Rooms and Places*, concurrent solo exhibitions of works by artist Alejandro Diaz at our San Antonio and New York City galleries. The exhibition will be on view at our New York City gallery from February 5 to March 20, 2026. A fully illustrated catalogue will be published, accompanied by an essay by artists' advocate Jimmy LeFlore.

This exhibition marks the artist's fourth solo exhibition with Ruiz-Healy Art. *Rooms and Places* is a homecoming to Diaz's earliest medium, painting, a practice that provides the artist with a tactile connection to the world around oneself and others.

Based in New York, Alejandro Diaz developed his distinct body of work while growing up in San Antonio, Texas, and living in Mexico City from 1990 to 1994. This background deeply informed his art, reflecting the complex and visually rich cultural environment of South Texas and Mexico. After years of producing work through fabricators, painting reemerged as a way for the artist to reconnect with his artistic practice. Diaz describes the canvas as the "site where I work things out," approaching it with vague notions and allowing the work to emerge intuitively.

The artist embraces imperfections in his work, not covering up mistakes in an immaculate way. Instead, he employs the practice of *pentimento*, the visible traces of earlier painting beneath the final surface of a work. Philosophically, he views *pentimento* as a "truer representation" of the human part underneath the veneer of reality. LeFlore states, "Nothing is wasted or disregarded. Whether in detail or in gesture, he approaches representation and subject as points of intersection, aware of all that's full and/or empty, near and/or far, elementary and/or vast."

Diaz often turns to external inspiration when deciding on the tone and narrative of his paintings, referencing the Western art historical canon of Edvard Munch, Pablo Picasso, and Francisco Goya, but only allows these art giants to go so far. He notes the ideology of Phillip Guston, "When you're in the studio painting, there are a lot of people in there with you...and one by one if you're really painting, they walk out." Diaz approaches painting as a solitary act, wherein calmness, beauty, and poetry emerge through the act of painting itself. Landscapes are also prominent throughout the exhibition, as the artist often paints to connect with something greater than himself. Reverence for the environment can be felt and understood in works such as *A*

Calm but Divided Sea, which offers silent contemplation through a serene body of water and a vast sky.

Rooms and Places encourage self-reflection and philosophical inquiries about one's place in the world, as described by LeFlore, "As a comprehensive series, viewers see an interlocking visual narrative that emerges and orients the viewer towards examining life's passages and portals, its daybreaks and nightfalls, its storms and silences."

About the Artist

Based in New York, Alejandro Diaz developed his distinct body of work while growing up in San Antonio, Texas, and living in Mexico City from 1990 to 1994. This background deeply informed his art, which reflects the complex and visually rich cultural environment of South Texas and Mexico. He received an MFA from the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY, in 1999 and a BFA from the University of Texas at Austin in 1987. While residing in Mexico City, he was part of the inner circle of artists who lived and worked around the Calle Licenciado Verdad. He was an Artist-in-Residence at Artpace, San Antonio in 1996, curated by Mary Beebe, Benito Huerta, Anthony Jones, Richard Koshalek, Lowery Sims, and Dianne Vanderlip, and co-founded Sala Diaz Gallery, a nonprofit contemporary art venue in San Antonio, Texas, in 1995. Diaz's work has been reviewed in publications such as *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Art in America*, the *LA Times*, *Flash Art*, *Artforum*, and *Frieze*. His work, is included in the collections of the Smithsonian Museum of Art, Washington D.C.; LACMA, Los Angeles, CA; El Museo del Barrio, New York, NY; Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale, AZ; Fundación Colección Jumex, Mexico City, Mexico; RISD Museum of Art, Providence, RI; Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, TX; McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, TX; The National Museum of Mexican Art, Chicago, IL; and Ruby City, San Antonio, TX.

About Ruiz-Healy Art

Founded in San Antonio, Texas, in 2006, Ruiz-Healy Art represents an international roster of artists, with a particular emphasis on Latino/a and Latin American creators, as well as prominent Texas-based artists. Biculturalism and discussions of identity are important aspects for several artists we work with. In the spring of 2019, we opened a gallery space on the Upper East Side of New York City, working in tandem with our gallery in San Antonio as a platform to disseminate the artist's work. The continuous investment in these underrepresented areas has remained a longstanding hallmark of the gallery program. The gallery is recognized for its success in placing works by our artists in prestigious museum collections ranging from the Museum of Modern Art, New York, Whitney Museum of American Art, the Smithsonian Institution, the Los Angeles

County Museum of Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Antonio Museum of Art, McNay Art Museum, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and many others.