



RUIZ-HEALY ART

Contemporary Art from Latin America & Texas

Patricia Ruiz-Healy, Director Ruiz-Healy Art
Gallery: 210-804-2219

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Alana Coates, Associate Director
alana@ruizhealyart.com
Mobile: 401-580-6852

Richard Armendariz: Tell me Where it Hurts

The exhibition will be on display December 6, 2017 to January 13, 2018
RUIZ-HEALY ART 201-A East Olmos Drive, San Antonio Texas 78212
Opening reception 6 -- 8 pm Wednesday, December 6, 2017
Catalogue with Essay by John Phillip Santos

Ruiz-Healy Art is pleased to announce a solo exhibition of new works by Richard Armendariz. *Tell Me Where it Hurts* opens Wednesday, December 6th with an artist reception, 6-8pm. The exhibition will feature the artist's signature carved paintings and large-scale woodblock prints.

Carved paintings are a specialty for Armendariz. Using an adapted power tool, he cuts into his Turner-esque* painted backgrounds that recall the vast (and sometimes turbulent) desert sky of El Paso, where the artist is from. Metaphorically replacing the tattoo gun with a router, Armendariz scars the romance of the pigment's soft fluidity with his permanent incisions.

Text is also an important element of his practice like many artists who powerfully incorporate language into their work, such as Ed Ruscha, Jenny Holzer, Barbara Kruger, and Jean-Michel Basquiat; however, Richard Armendariz emblazons his art with his native tongue of Spanglish. His Mexican-American heritage and Southwest upbringing strongly influence his mark making and conceptual narratives.

The phrases in Armendariz's artworks quite often reference popular culture, specifically song lyrics, and appear lyrical in nature even when the text is not appropriated from music. Never decorative, the words featured are always integral to the composition. Peppered with misspellings, border-slang, and backward characters, for humor, sarcasm, and a nod to dyslexia.

Wish You Were Here, is an unabashed reference to the 60s British psychedelic band, Pink Floyd and their title album that paid tribute to the fallen band member, Syd Barrett who left the band due to mental illness. Intricate cross-hatching and carved-pointillism embellish the large blue-monochrome nautical plane -- a sole ship caught in a storm out to sea-- allegorically capturing the timeless existential crisis of human beings.



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Armendariz states, " I'm thinking about the comedy of life and death. Stress is the major killer -- more so than fast cars and women--but we are told the latter is the danger."



The exhibition, *Tell me Where it Hurt*, includes an illusionistic painting series, which pays homage to some of his favorite artists, depicting Kara Walker and Luis Jimenez. Armendariz includes a self-portrait in this series as well. The faces arise from stormy backdrops like a premonition for the viewer. In *Cono de fuego*, the portrait of the artist is without the symbolic iconography that is tattooed on the faces of the other portrait sitters. His self-portrait has encrypted text on the cone in flames protruding from his left ear, an ancient tradition, a glaring gaze of determination, and his hair stands on ends

resembling a ravenous flame.

Armendariz' *Beauty Mark* series also highlighted in this exhibit, explores through time, space and texture, an interplay of fact and fiction and a discourse of how society defines beauty. Using formal elements and explorations of painterly texture within organic shapes, Armendariz explores how historically beauty marks have been both a positive and negative attribute.

Richard Armendariz earned a BFA from The University of Texas at San Antonio in 1995 and MFA from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1999. Armendariz was the inaugural resident at the Doseum Museum in 2017 and Kunstlerhaus Bethanien Artist in Residency, Berlin, Germany in 2013. He has exhibited nationally and internationally from Juárez to Palestine. Armendariz's artworks can be found in collections across the country, including the Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO; San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio, TX; The McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, TX.

About Ruiz-Healy Art

Founded in 2004, Ruiz-Healy Art specializes in Post-War and contemporary works of art with an emphasis on Latin American and Texas connected artists. The Texas-based gallery is located in the historic Olmos Park District of San Antonio with open hours of Tuesday – Saturday 11:00 -4:00 p.m. and by appointment. RHA in NYC is by appointment only. To request high-resolution images and more information, please contact alana@ruizhealyart.com or call the number above.

www.ruizhealyart.com

Tell Me Where it Hurts will be on view through January 13, 2018.

* referring to the Romantic painter J.M.W. Turner