



RUIZ-HEALY ART

Contemporary Art from Latin America & Texas

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Gallery: 210-804-2219

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Ismael Vargas: Echoes of Mexico

The exhibition will be on display October 15 through November 14, 2015
Ruiz-Healy Art 201-A East Olmos Drive, San Antonio Texas 78212
Opening Reception 6:00-8:00 p.m., Thursday, October 15, 2015
Catalogue available with essay by John Phillip Santos

Ruiz-Healy Art is pleased to present a solo exhibition of new works by Ismael Vargas. *Echoes of Mexico* opens Thursday, October 15th. The artist will be in attendance.

Born in Jalisco, Mexico, Ismael Vargas is a self-taught painter associated with the *Neo-Mexicanidad* movement; he employs objects of the Mexican culture in repetition and subtle abstraction to fill brilliantly colored canvases of objects from everyday life.

His paintings flaunt dense layers of masks, depicting painted skulls, polychromatic animal-human hybrids, and countenances of cracked jade, seem to proliferate to infinity. Mosaics of brilliant orange and pink butterflies fill another frame. Undulating fabrics, richly embroidered scarlet sashes and woven *rebozos*, seem to leap out from wall. Somehow both instantly recognizable and abstract, these images offer a lens through which we witness a plenitude of forms drawn from the center of the Mexican soul.

Taking the language of ordinary objects from Mexican popular culture, especially from his home of Guadalajara, Vargas uses incomparable technique to transform them into an inventory of timeless implements, a glimpse into a world that is simultaneously sacred and ordinary, deeply Mexican, but pre-eminently human in its sources. You think you're seeing something you've seen a thousand times before. Instead, you're invited into a space of epic imagination.

Vargas' work has been included in numerous exhibitions throughout Mexico and the United States. Among a few are the Mexican Cultural Institute, Washington, D.C.; The Tamaulipas Contemporary Art Museum, Mexico; and the San Antonio Museum of Art, TX. His art can be found in the permanent collections of the Museum of Latin American Art, CA; the Monterrey Museum of Contemporary Art, Mexico; and the Panama Museum of Contemporary Art, Panama.

Founded in 2004, and located in the historic Olmos Park District of San Antonio, Ruiz-Healy Art specializes in contemporary art with an emphasis on Latin American and Texas connected artists. To request high-resolution images and more information about the exhibition, please contact the gallery at 210-804-2219. Gallery hours are Tuesday – Saturday 11:00 -4:00 p.m. and by appointment.

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