

ELMER GUEVARA

Mi Orgullo

January 21st – March 6th, 2021

About Elmer



Elmer Guevara (b.1990) was born and raised in Los Angeles and is currently working bicoastal in New York City. In the 1980s, his parents fled a civil war-torn El Salvador finding refuge in the City of Angels. Along with the city exposure in South Central and the culture his parents brought to the US with them, he became inspired to depict images about his upbringing and exploration of identity. Furthermore, he depicts observations of encountered struggles from his own and neighboring immigrant families, who dealt with issues of marginalization and inequality. Through his teenage years he met with friends, commuting throughout the city on public transit becoming obsessed with exploring the city's crevices and buildings while favoring the late nights to paint on walls and highways. Without much thought, this obsession later ventured into an appreciation for painting and an education in the arts. In 2017, he received a BFA in Drawing and Painting from Cal State University Long Beach and is currently an MFA candidate at Hunter College in New York. He has recently exhibited with Residency Art Gallery at The Felix Art Fair this past year in Los Angeles and took part at Taubman Museum of Art in Roanoke, Virginia for A Very Anxious Feeling, group show.

About *Mi Orgullo*

In *Mi Orgullo*, Guevara's body of work honors and accounts his parent's homeland experiences of civil war in 1980s El Salvador and the struggles they endured migrating and adapting to Los Angeles culture. Weaved within these experiences is his own personal narrative - prideful recollections of both the fond memories and wounds of his upbringing in Los Angeles. Guevara's visual reconstruction of these narratives helps him both understand the distress that has shaped his parent's being, while also illuminating the dimensions of his own identity that have been shaped by inherited trauma. The figures he portrays serve as vessels holding the complexities of memory - from El Salvador to Los Angeles.

Guevara's use of portraiture work exemplifies his upbringing within its storied images. He manipulates the imagery within the figures by reconstructing past memories and merging them with his current experiences. In addition, family identity plays a major role in the work as he renders both the interior and exterior spaces to address the environments of origin and partly by analogy. Guevara also depicts psychological spaces that interweave from one concept to another, expressing different realities.

One challenge Guevara faced while creating *Mi Orgullo* was to visually express this body of work while also acknowledging and working through his inherited trauma. This tension drives him to expand the use of multiple depictive modes to illuminate the complexity of the subject matter. He composes figures with a variety of approaches, in some instances portions hold collaged graphic images and along with painterly modes that collide with one another. The images in the collaged areas derive from numerous family picture books and screen-shot images from video clips forming two distinct worlds. The collaged element within the body gives one version of information in one particular style that is in contrast to rendered paintings and drier marks.

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Mi Orgullo

Installation Shots



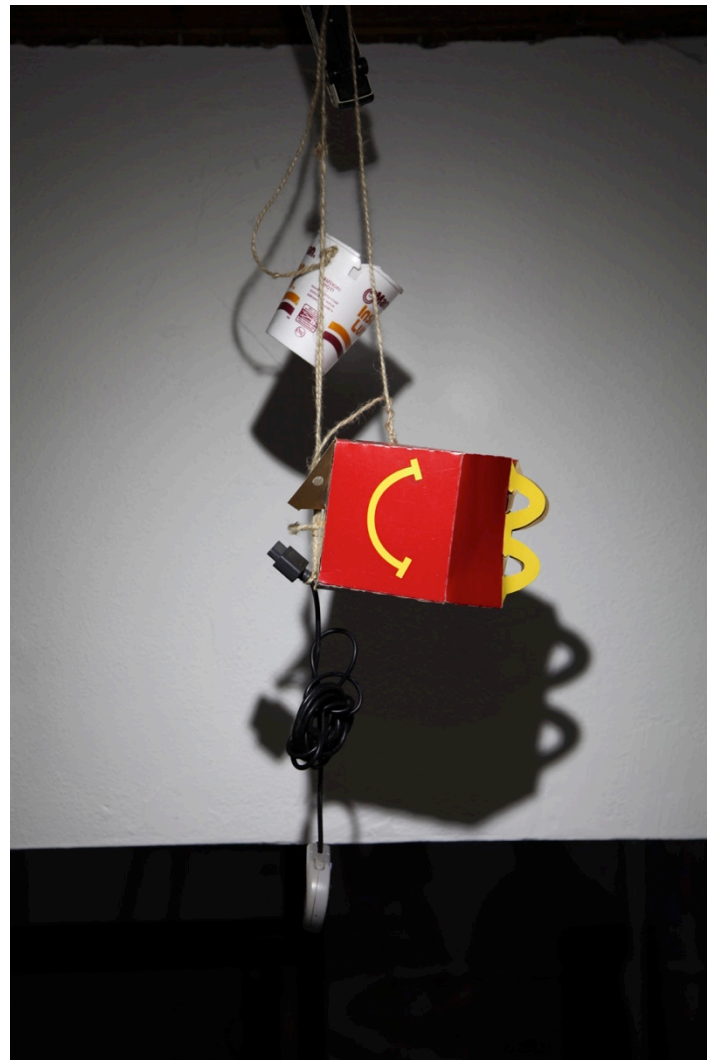




ELMER GUEVARA
Mi Orgullo







Available Works in

Mi Orgullo

Passed on to Him
2020
Mixed media on Linen
36x44in



The Muddy Walk through The Dark Waters

2020

Oil and collaged transfer on Panel

32x37in



Be cool or Be Lame?

2020

Oil and collaged transfers on Linen

34x38in



Our water-well
2020
Oil and collaged transfers on Canvas
36x59in



Pondering the Times, in Harlem

2020

Mixed media on Linen

60x72in



Time Passin' on the Same Stop
2020
Oil and collaged transfers on Linen
60x72in



Thirty-one years in the North
2020
Mixed media on paper (Framed)
22x30in



Color?
2020
Mixed media on paper (Framed)
22x30in



Welcome, Baby Boy
2020
Mixed media on paper (Framed)
22x30in



SOULcial Distance
2020
Mixed media on paper (Framed)
22x30in



Safe in my Bubble

2020

Mixed media on paper (Framed)

22x30in



Suit for my Birthday
2020
Mixed media on paper (Framed)
22x30in



A Night of Anger and Frustration

2020

Mixed media on paper (Framed)

13x17in



That shit that got me sick that one time
2020
Relief print with yarn attached and personal hand
applications (Framed)
16x32in



Now it's Your Turn

2020

Relief print with personal hand application (Framed)

12x19in



VIEWS *JOSH VASQUEZ*

About Josh



Josh Vasquez is a multi-disciplinary artist who primarily works in painting. He was born and raised in the Pico-Union area of Los Angeles. In addition to his paintings, he explores different media such as drawing, performance, video, and most recently, large scale sculptures. He earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with an emphasis on drawing and painting from California State University of Long Beach in 2017. He has recently exhibited at Montevista Projects, Angel's Gate Cultural Center, South Los Angeles Contemporary and the Torrance Art Museum.

Artist's Statement on *Views*

My current work utilizes painting and installation to create imagery that captures the essence of my home in Los Angeles. I am inspired with ideas about idealization, nostalgia, romanticism and community access. I use familiar Los Angeles motifs such as sunsets, palm trees and architectural accents, such as iron window bars, in my work to depict an intimate portrait of where I live. I use construction motifs and structures to accentuate and bring attention to the space being held. Moreover, these structures also help me explore ideas about access. More specifically, access to the inside and outside of the home. I ask myself questions like, “Who is allowed in our home? Are we keeping ourselves in or are we keeping others out?”



Golden Palm (Desire)

2019

Acrylic and Gold Micah Flakes on Walnut Wood Panel

36x36in



Win-Dow Bars

2020

Acrylic and Drywall on Canvas Wrapped Wood Panel

24x30in



(Rejas de ventana)

Inside Looking Out
2019

Acrylic and 23k Gold Leaf on Walnut Panel framed by Wall Structure
24x30in



City Lights
2018
Acrylic and Oil on Linen
14x15in



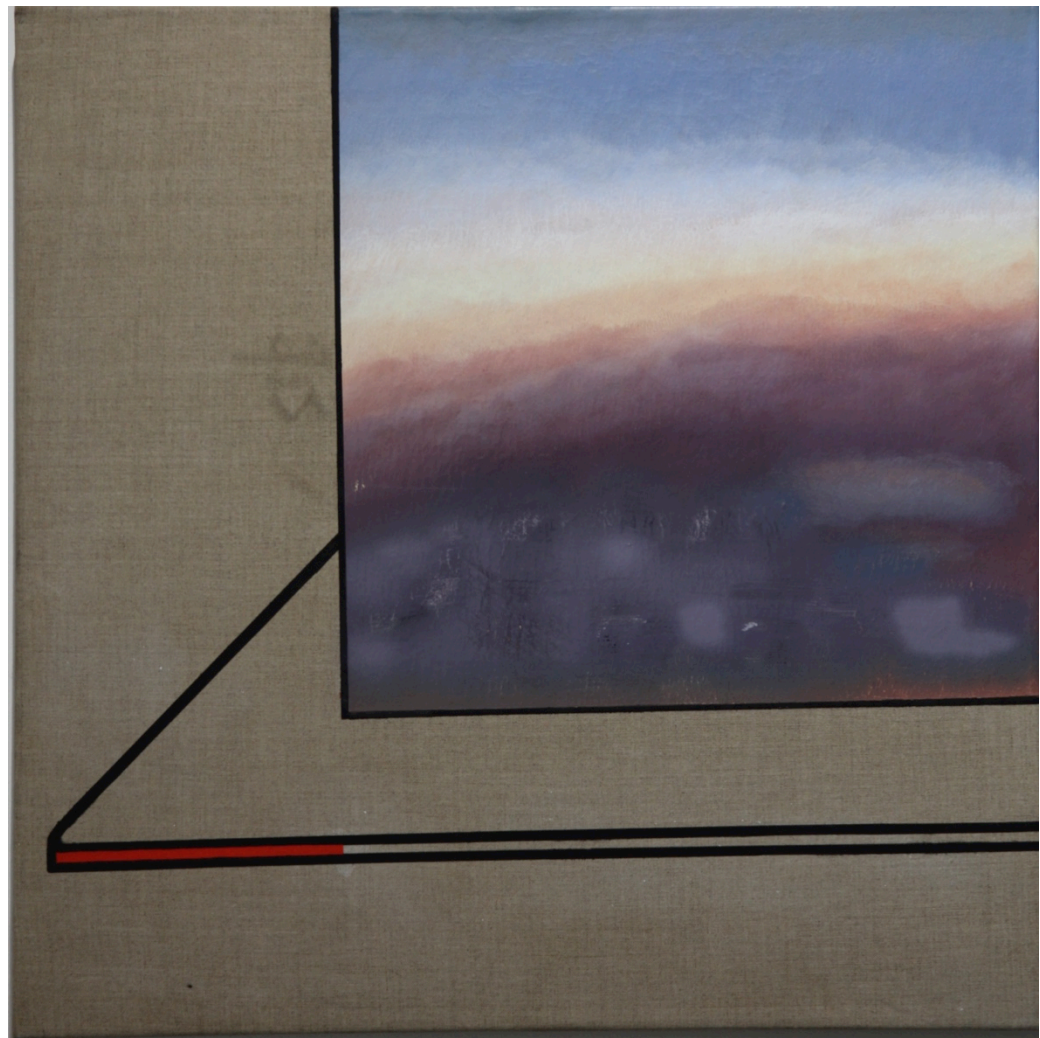
Outside Looking In

2019

Acrylic and 23k Gold Leaf on Walnut Panel
framed by Wall Structure
48x48in



Buffed Out
2018
Acrylic and Oil on Linen
18x18



Gitterstaben
2020
Acrylic, House Paint, Drywall, and MDF Moulding
on Canvas Wrapped Wood Panel
18x18in



Residency

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