

# BODY POLITICS





**ReflectSpace  
Downtown Central Library**

222 E. Harvard St.  
Glendale, CA 91205

Mon-Thurs 9 am - 10 pm

Fri-Sat 9 am - 6 pm  
Sun 12 pm - 6 pm  
818-548-2021

[reflectspace@glendaleca.gov](mailto:reflectspace@glendaleca.gov)

Cover image: Enrique Castrejon, Detail from 'You Radiate Your Brilliance', 2018

# BODY POLITICS

October 5 - November 21, 2018

## Artists

### ReflectSpace

Nazik Armenakyan  
Enrique Castrejon  
Grey James  
Nicole Kelly & Phoebe Unter  
Devan Shimoyama  
Annie Tritt  
James Wentzy

### PassageWay

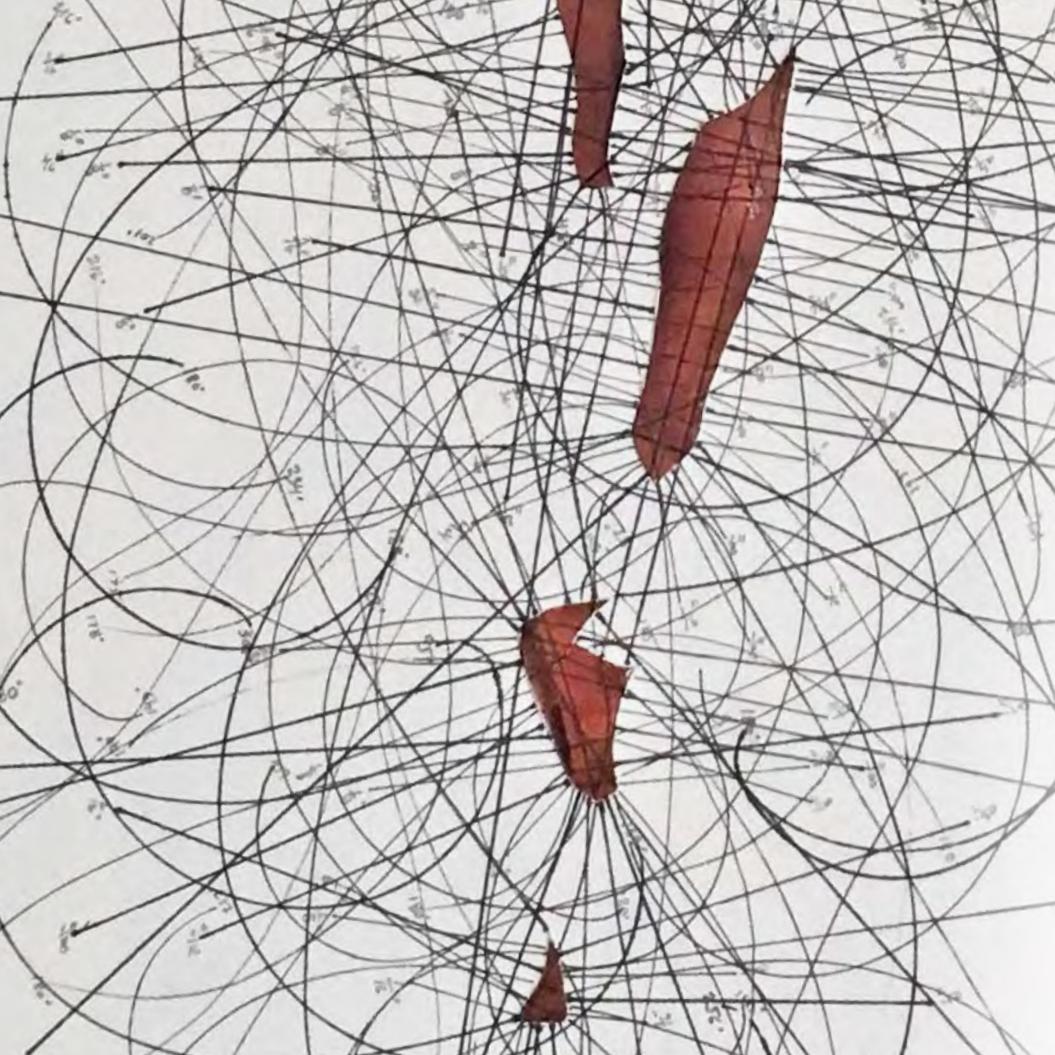
Ruben Esparza  
Antonio Ibanez y Carlos Bueno  
Rigo Maldonado  
Miguel Angel Reyes  
Gabriel Garcia Roman  
Shizu Saldamando  
Hector Silva

### Curators

Anahid Yahjian  
Ara & Anahid Oshagan

### Institutional Partners

Frameline Distribution  
ONE Archives Foundation  
Self Help Graphics & Art



# BODY POLITICS

by Anahid Yahjian

*Body Politics* traces how the body, in its individual and collective forms, serves as a catalyst, canvas and symbol for political action and expression in LGBTQI+ communities. Framed by the painstakingly documented--and still ongoing history of American LGBTQI+ civil rights struggles and contemporary visual art by queer artists of diverse backgrounds, this exhibition foregrounds the power and humanity of queer bodies in Glendale at a time when marginalized voices around the world are finally being heard in the mainstream.

In the introduction of Volume 5 of *Politics, Groups and Identities* (Routledge, 2017), bodies are defined as “sites in which social constructions of differences are mapped onto human beings. Subjecting the body to systemic regimes – such as government regulation – is a method of ensuring that bodies will behave in socially and politically accepted manners.”

Here, “the body” is multivalent, mutable and performative; it exists in both individual and unified bodies on the streets of major US cities demanding the right to love, live and be queer; in the bodies of victims of the AIDS epidemic; in the changing bodies of transgender and non-binary children and adults; in representations, mutations and even erasures of the human form in both artistic theory and practice; and finally, in the bodies of the very people who walk through the exhibition space and gaze upon the bodies on display.



From the "Stamp of Loneliness" series about AMGB (assisted male at bar) sex workers in Yerevan, Armenia

# THE STAMP OF LONELINESS

## NAZIK ARMENAKYAN

In the mirror:

“Do you know what it’s like to be alone?

I am alone. I have no one. No mother, no father, no grandmother. Utterly alone.

Sometimes I think, if something were to happen to me, no one other than my friends would know...“

While documenting the daily lives of AMAB (assigned male at birth) sex workers in Yerevan, Armenia from 2010-2013, photographer Nazik Armenakyan was invited into the home of this photograph's anonymous subject. The subject became emotional as they struggled to speak about their marginalized place in Armenian society. The right words to describe their identity don't exist in the Armenian lexicon, let alone the resources and support to find themselves and their place in their country.

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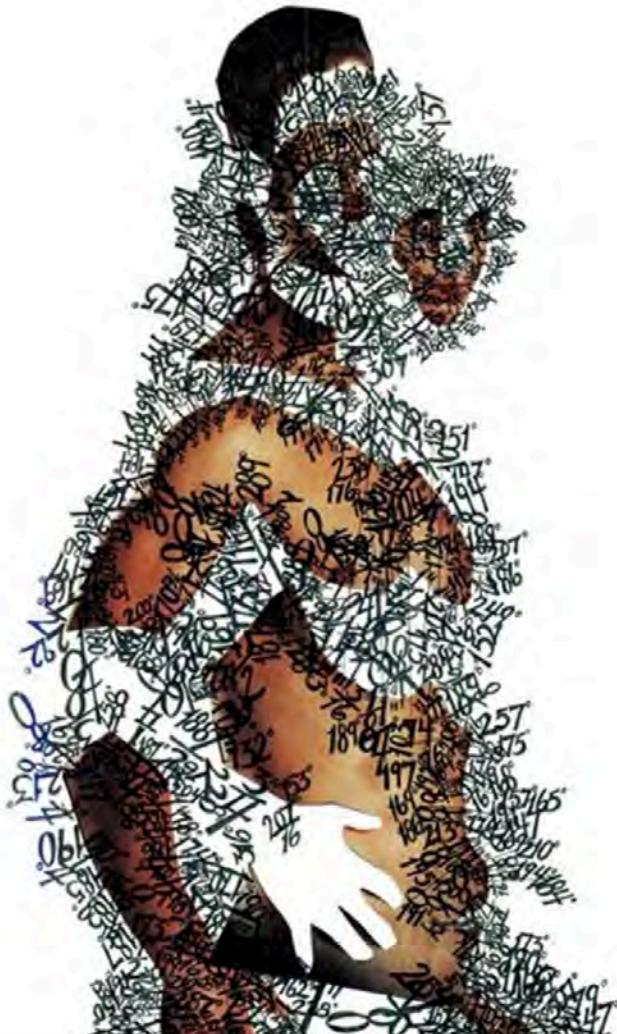
Nazik Armenakyan has been working as a photojournalist since 2002. She has worked for Armenpress News Agency, *Yerevan* magazine, *Forum* magazine and Reuters. She has received a fellowship from the Magnum Foundation and grant from the Open Society Foundation. She is one of the founders of the 4 Plus Documentary Photography Center in Yerevan, Armenia, which aims to develop Armenian documentary photography and empower women through photography.

## MEASURED & FRAGMENTED BODIES

ENRIQUE CASTREJON

Enrique Castrejon's work literally explodes magazine clippings of the queer male body and examines them on a molecular level. Entirely new bodies are created through his meticulous measuring and collage process, thus reconfiguring the limits of physicality, sexuality and objectified space in print media.

Waifs and Strays - GoGo Dancer collage, glue, pigmented ink on paper, 2011



*I create measured drawings, paintings and sound pieces to investigate, question and describe what I see in varied images of pop-culture, architecture, war, senseless acts of violence, disease, fragmented bodies, and death.*

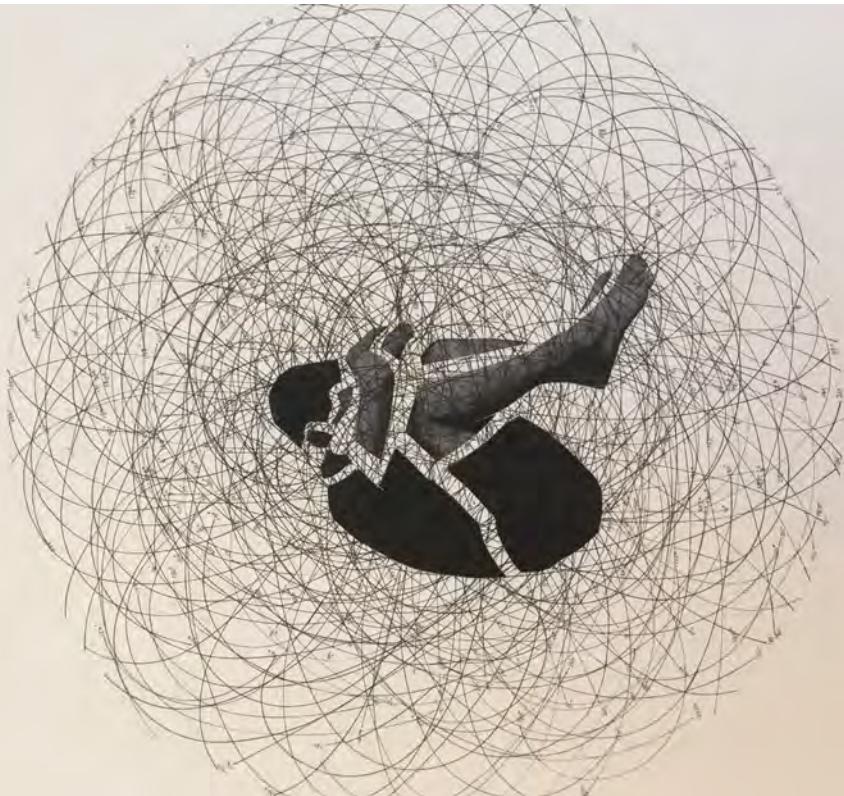
*I linearly cut, dissect and deconstruct selected appropriated images into smaller fragmented shapes, reconstructing images into puzzle-like geometric mosaics while trying to maintain the image's content. I measure the lengths of the fragmented geometric shapes in (x inches) and calculate the varied angle degrees within these shapes using a protractor, calculator and the equation (360°- x°=y°) to detail the quantitative units found in these shapes that make the overall image.*

*My main artistic goal is to make work that merges math, science, and art to investigate socio-political and sexual themes through my drawing practice. I am also interested in investigating advertisements directed toward gay men, to question male body objectification, codification, and standards of male beauty.*

-Enrique Castrejon

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Castrejon's measured collage drawings have been exhibited international- ly, most recently at Museo de Arte Carrillo Gil, Mexico City; nationally at the Mexican Cultural Institute of Washington D.C., the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art in New York , NYC, and the Center for Art, Design and Visual Culture, University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD. Locally, Castrejon has exhibited at Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA), Armory Center for the Arts, LACE – Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery at Barnsdall Art Park and Vincent Price Museum. Castrejon is a recipient of a 2018 COLA grant. He lives and works in Los Angeles, CA.





"Untitled", oil on canvas, mixed media assemblage

# GREY JAMES

Grey James' figures, at once faceless and escaping binary classification, loom monolithically in an eponymous grey world punctuated by golden halos, citrus still-lifes and lunar patterns. Their bodies are otherworldly and enigmatic, transformed by the concavity of their chests and the angles of their spare forms.

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Grey James is a Glendale-based artist who has shown in New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago. He sells locally and internationally and is in the permanent collection of the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art, the world's largest LGBTQ art museum. In 2018, Grey was a primary organizer for the show QUEER, a multi-venue art event that was also Glendale's first ever Gay Pride celebration. Represented by Bert Green Fine Art, he will have a solo booth in the upcoming LA Art show at Los Angeles Convention Center in January 2019 and a solo show at Bert Green Fine Art in Chicago in the Spring of 2019.





All works are "Untitled", oil on canvas, and assemblage



Daytime Talk Show 2028 installation, LA State Historic Park, DTLA,  
part of 'Aint A Woman?' Performance Event 2018  
Photo by Monica Orozco

# DAYTIME TALK SHOW 2028

## NICOLE KELLY & PHOEBE UNTER / BITCHFACE

In the absence of physical bodies, *Daytime Talk Show 2028* invites the viewer to take a seat and occupy space as both spectator and participant in an imagined dialogue between black, trans lesbian activist Yocheved Zenaida Cohen, several other prominent radical queer and feminist scholars and Oprah Winfrey.

DON  
WOND

**ACT I:** We long to understand, we want to think ourselves tolerant, yet we still have so many dumb lingering questions **ACT II:** But I think it's also evolving, isn't it? **ACT III:** First of all what the f\*ck does a woman look like **ACT IV:** You know the binary doesn't relate to feminism for me **ACTV:** Our activism means nothing without reparations!

**DAYTIME TALK SHOW 2028** is a sound installation, a canonization, and a feminist premonition. To create the soundscape, we edited Oprah's actual interviews with trans women (Kimberly Reed in 2010 and Janet Mock in 2018) into an imaginary, future episode in which her most celebrated guest is a black trans lesbian separatist scholar named Yocheved Zenaida Cohen.

Yocheved Zenaida Cohen writes about the intersections of people of color, separatist space, and intentional, womxn's separatist space. She lives in a coven of lesbian separatists who write theory, some of which she shared at a panel discussion that we organized in 2017, following the first Women's March. (Yocheved was recorded at Pieter Performance Space in Los Angeles.)

In this more evolved imagined version of The Oprah Show, Oprah (almost) knows better than to ask the questions trans folks are tired of hearing. The audience is ecstatic for contemporary gender theory, intersectional political analysis, for reparations, and for Yocheved's call to abolish the institutions of gender and heterosexuality. Yocheved directs (and corrects) the narrative, providing endless "aha" moments. Even Oprah learns to question her relationship with gender. You could think of Oprah as mainstream cis culture, curious and queering. While Yocheved

'T DIE  
DERING

*is part of a lineage of radical scholars, the queer vanguard. DAYTIME TALK SHOW 2028 also includes the voices of Marsha P. Johnson, Jill Johnston, Angela Davis, Judith Butler, bell hooks, Reina Gossett, and Audre Lorde. In that order.*

*OUR ACTIVISM MEANS NOTHING WITHOUT REPARATIONS! No art is neutral. It is either transforming or upholding the status quo. bitchface reflects our values of care, collaboration, cultural exchange and gender fluidity. We hope to illuminate new ways of being, thinking, and relating, and to elevate the ideas of women and femmes of color. Yocheved Zenaida Cohen was compensated for contributing her voice & ideas to bitchface. The installation was also created to benefit Yocheved's ongoing survival fund, which can be found on [bitchfacepodcast.com](http://bitchfacepodcast.com).*

-bitchface

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**bitchface** is an experimental audio project by Nicole Kelly and Phoebe Unter. Nicole & Phoebe also collaborate on performances, events, and publications on art, gender and power, and have been residents at the Women's Center for Creative Work and This Will Take Time. Nicole Kelly is a writer, performer, and programmer working for a more liberated future. Phoebe Unter is a multimedia artist and produces audio independently and at Marketplace.



# DEVAN SHIMOYAMA

Devan Shimoyama is a visual artist working primarily in self-portraiture and narratives inspired from classical mythology and allegory. Shimoyama seeks to depict the black queer male body as something that is both desirable and desirous. His work showcases the relationship between celebration and silence in queer culture and sexuality. Shimoyama's composition is inspired from the canons of the masters Caravaggio and Goya, though adding a more contemporary expression and sensuality. With the usage of various materials: splattered paint, stencils, black glitter, rhinestones, and sequins, Shimoyama creates pieces that capture the magical spirit of human beings. Shimoyama is currently based in Pittsburgh, PA.

Shimoyama was born in 1989 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and graduated from Penn State University in 2011 with a BFA in Drawing/Painting before obtaining his MFA at Yale University School of Art in 2014. He was awarded the Al Held Fellowship at the Yale School of Art in 2013 and has had a residency at the 2015 Fire Island Artist Residency. Shimoyama's work has been exhibited throughout America on numerous occasions. His upcoming exhibition *Cry, Baby* will be presented at the Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh from October 13, 2018 – March 17, 2019.

Purple Storm, 2016  
Oil, colored pencil, door knobs, beads, rhinestones on panel  
Courtesy of the @Exoticus Collection







Shadow, 2015  
Mixed media on wood  
Courtesy of the @Foxiolos Collection



Azaj, 17, transgender girl, Oakland, Pigment ink print

# TRANSCENDING SELF

## ANNIE TRITT

Annie Tritt's *Transcending Self* approaches transgender and "gender-expansive" children and young adults as more than just changing bodies. Her camera captures their young subjects' deeply spiritual and intellectual experience of growing up as it unfolds in the familiar, ubiquitous backdrops of American childhood: the living room couch, the backyard, the teenage bedroom. Tritt's subjects are determined to make it in a binary world, staring down the lens as an affirmation of who they are and dream of becoming.

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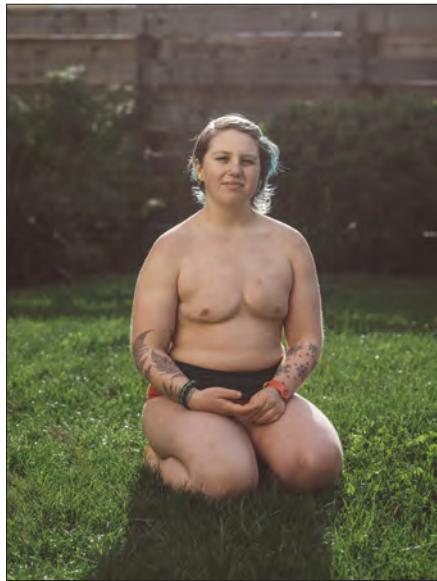
*Nearly 50% of transgender youth will have at least one suicide attempt by their 20th birthday. Globally, a transgender person is murdered every 29 hours. Visibility is one of the strongest tools we have to prevent this. My project, Transcending Self, is a critical project not only for the transgender community, but for all of us. Challenging existing narratives about identity works toward building a world in which all people are freer to become their true, complex selves--a world in which difference is embraced and validated, rather than marginalized and repressed*

-Annie Tritt



Above: Leo, 18, transgender boy, New York City. Pigment ink print  
Below: Lili, 12, transgender girl, North Central California. Pigment ink print





Left: Jay, 5, Transgender boy and his twin Luton. England. Pigment ink print  
Right: Davi, 20, gender neutral. Oakland, California. Pigment ink print

Annie Tritt began their career as a photojournalist working in New York City, following a career as a teacher and stay-at-home parent. They covered stories in Burma, Mexico, Cameroon, Thailand, the West Bank, and Jordan. Later they specialized in editorial portraiture. Their clients include The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Billboard, Fortune, Variety, Hollywood Reporter, Paper, INC, the London Guardian, London Telegraph, Fader, M Le Magazine du Monde, Wired Italy, and Der Spiegel.

# FIGHT BACK, FIGHT AIDS: 15 YEARS OF ACT UP

JAMES WENTZY

In 1987, with AIDS deaths in the thousands and government policy still criminally indifferent, activists formed ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) with the sentiment “turn anger, fear, and grief into action”. James Wentzy’s documentary *Fight Back, Fight AIDS: 15 Years of ACT UP* uses archive footage of speeches, demonstrations and ACT UP meetings as it follows the group’s imaginative, inspiring and in-your-face campaigning over 15 years.

-*Berlinale Panorama (cited on actupny.org)*

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James Wentzy is known as an AIDS activist and documentary filmmaker associated with ACT UP throughout the 1990s. He has been a producer and director for DIVA TV since 1991, and is also a video archivist for the Estate Project's AIDS Activist Video Preservation Project for the New York Public Library. *Fight Back, Fight AIDS* was his first feature-length documentary. Wentzy's goal within DIVA TV was to create a “national media network devoted to reflecting the struggles, needs and state of mind of people affected by AIDS.”

Still from "Fight Back, Fight AIDS: 15 Years of ACT UP," 2002.  
Video, 75 minutes  
Courtesy of Frameline/Distribution



The work of artists Ruben Esparza, Antonio Ibanez y Carlos Bueno, Rigo Maldonado, Miguel Angel Reyes, Gabriel Garcia Roman, Shizu Saldamando, and Hector Silva in *Body Politics* are sourced from a long tradition of community engagement and collaboration. Produced at Self Help Graphics and Art in Los Angeles over nearly two decades, the serigraphs and a mono silkscreen in this show are unabashed but also tender in their representation of the LGBTQI+ body. They strike a delicate but weighty balance between defiance and desire and confront the audience with a certain matter of factness: these are our bodies, this is who we are.

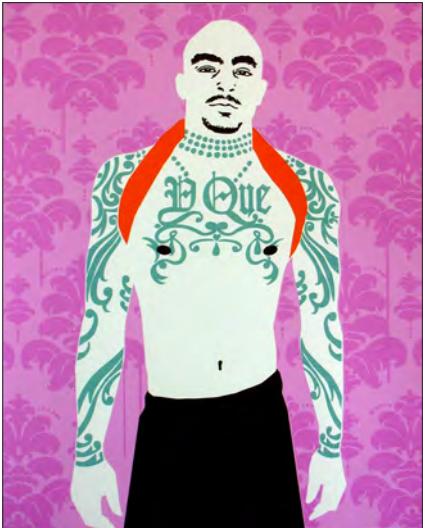
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## SELF HELP GRAPHICS & ART

Self-Help Graphics & Art, Inc. is a community arts center in East Los Angeles, California. Formed during the cultural renaissance that accompanied the Chicano Movement, Self Help, as it is sometimes called, was one of the primary centers that incubated the nascent Chicano art movement, and remains important in that movement, as well as in the greater Los Angeles community, today. Self Help is dedicated to the production, interpretation and distribution of prints and other media by Chicano/a and Latinx artists.

## RUBEN ESPARZA

Y Que. Self Help Graphics & Art  
Courtesy of Self Help Graphics & Art



Rubén Esparza is an Artist and independent curator based in Los Angeles. Esparza's practice spans painting, drawings and digital work, mixing it with elements of Conceptualism, ethnicity and Queer Culture. His curatorial work focuses on under-represented artists primarily in the Queer and ethnic communities. His work is included as part of the permanent collections of

the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, the Santa Barbara Museum, National Museum of Mexican Art, Chicago, Illinois, among others. Ruben is the founder and Director Curator of the Queer Biennial, anchored in Los Angeles, New York, Mexico, Miami, Paris, and Zürich. [www.queerbiennial.com](http://www.queerbiennial.com) / [www.rubenesparza.com](http://www.rubenesparza.com).

## RIGO MOLDANADO

Rigo Maldonado is a mixed-media contemporary artist from Santa Ana, CA. Born in the shadow of Disneyland, his art fabricates hyperreal and contradictory environments that explore Mexican cultural tradition, counter-memory, social amnesia and navigating spaces. Always with a wink and nod toward the ironic and excessive, Maldonado confronts his audiences with complex social issues through playful spatial and material manipulations. His work has been exhibited in China, France and throughout the US.



Hand to Swallow, Serigraph, 2008  
Courtesy of Self Help Graphics & Art

## ANTONIO IBANEZ Y CARLOS BUENA

Carlos Bueno was a draftsman, painter and muralist. His partner Antonio Ibanez was a photographer.

Together they joined graphic artist Sister Karen Boccalero in starting a community art project in 1971 that evolved into Self Help Graphics, the Eastside institution that has nurtured such notable artists as Gronk and Pattsi Valdez. Their work was instrumental in launching the Chicano art movement in the 1970s. They also helped found Los Angeles' annual Día de los Muertos/Day of the Dead celebration.

Bueno was largely known for his drawings and while he painted a number of murals in his lifetime, only one or two survive. In April of 2001, just months before his death, he had a solo exhibit at The Avenue 50 Studio in Highland Park.



Vato Loco, Serigraph, 1973  
Courtesy of Self Help Graphics & Art

## MIGUEL ANGEL REYES



Beso Transparente, Mono Silkscreen, 2001  
Courtesy of Self Help Graphics & Art

Miguel Angel Reyes is a Los Angeles-based portrait and figurative painter, muralist, printmaker and illustrator. Miguel incorporates expressionist brushwork and a saturated palette in celebration of the classic latin tradition. His photography informs the way he creates paintings and prints. When not working from life, he begins by shooting his own photographs on the street, clubs, in studio and elsewhere.

# GABRIEL GARCIA ROMAN

Gabriel Garcia Roman is a multi-media artists and craftsman. He was born in Zacatecas,

Mexico and raised in Chicago. As an artist he is constantly looking for ways to counteract the flatness that's inherent to the medium of photography: weaving, folding, cutting, interlacing prints or collaging are all different attempts at realizing that goal. Recently those same techniques and actions have been transferred over to ceramics, wood and textiles, where he's constantly pushing the materials' boundaries. *Queer Icon*, his most recent body of work, has been exhibited across the country. He currently lives and works in New York City.



Carlos & Fernando from *Queer Icons* series, Serigraph, 2017  
Courtesy of Self Help Graphics & Art

## SHIZU SALDAMANDO

Shizu Saldamando, a painter, graduated from UCLA and then earned an MFA from the California Institute of the Arts. She currently lives and works in Los Angeles. Her portraits of friends and members of her community play with questions of identity, exploring the hyphenated nationalities of many Americans, and the way consumer culture affects style. Shizu has exhibited her artworks at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C.; Museo del Barrio, New York City; LACMA, Los Angeles; Setagaya Museum, Tokyo; Indianapolis Museum of Contemporary Art, Indianapolis; Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego; Japanese American National Museum; CAM Contemporáneo, Guadalajara; and the Chinese American Museum. She is a recipient of the California Community Foundation Fellowship for Emerging Visual Artists.



Una Cobia Seigraph, 2010  
Courtesy of Self Help Graphics & Art

## HECTOR SILVA

Saint Drestliko, Serigraph, 2008  
Courtesy of Salt Help Graphics & Art



Hector Silva is a self-taught artist based in Los Angeles who has been producing work for more than thirty years. Born in Ocotlán, Jalisco, in Mexico, he moved to the United States at the age of 17. He began drawing in his late 20s. Today his work is collected

internationally, and has received acclaim in the US and abroad. Recent group and solo exhibitions include a retrospective at The ONE Archives/USC, KGB Gallery, Highways Performance Space, the Museum of Latin American Art, City of Buena Park City Hall Council Chamber, El Camino City College, the Museum of Mexican American Art, the Autry National Center of the American West, the Southwest Museum of the American Indian, the Museo Hispano de Nevada, the Erotic Heritage Museum, and DePaul University.

## ONE ARCHIVES FOUNDATION

The ONE Archives Foundation, Inc. collects, preserves, and protects LGBTQ history, art, and culture in collaboration with ONE Archives at the USC Libraries, the largest repository of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) materials in the world. ONE Archives has been a part of the University of Southern California Libraries since 2010.

ONE's history panels feature hundreds of rare images and many never-before-seen documents from its renowned collection along with informative texts that enrich and deepen the general public's knowledge of LGBTQ history. A selection of panels from their "History of the LGBTQ Civil Rights Movement" grounds the contemporary art in *Body Politics* in a multi-generational tradition of activism.

## REFLECTSPACE GALLERY @ DOWNTOWN CENTRAL LIBRARY CURATED BY ARA & ANAHID OSHAGAN

ReflectSpace Gallery at Glendale's Downtown Central Library is a new hybrid exhibition space designed to explore and reflect on major human atrocities, genocides and civil rights violations. Immersive in conception, ReflectSpace is both experiential and informative, employing art, technology and interactive media to engage viewers on an emotional and personal level. ReflectSpace highlights the past and present of Glendale's communal fabric and interrogates current-day global human rights issues.





This catalog is made possible with the generous support of the Glendale Library Foundation.

The Glendale Library Foundation believes in expanding knowledge, exploring opportunities, and enriching lives through an outstanding public library.

The Glendale Library Foundation was established in 2014 in response to a bequest from the estate of Robert Seiden. Committed to enhancing the Glendale Library's benefits to the community, the Foundation seeks additional donations to support equipment, programs, and special staffing needs in the ReflectSpace gallery and the Library's other inspiring spaces.



DOWNTOWN  
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LIBRARY, ARTS & CULTURE

