

# RUIZ-HEALY ART

Latinx, Latin America, & Texas Contemporary Art

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Ruiz-Healy Art is pleased to present *Madre Tierra*, a group exhibition of works by Nate Cassie, Alejandro Diaz, Andrés Ferrandis, Consuelo Jimenez Underwood, Matt Kleberg, Leigh Anne Lester, Constance Lowe, Katie Pell, Chuck Ramirez, Daniel Rios Rodriguez, Frank Romero, Eric Santoscoy-McKillip, Ethel Shipton, and Einar and Jamex de la Torre, on view until September 7th, 2024, at our San Antonio gallery. An opening reception will be held on May 29th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. From representational paintings, surrealistic works on paper, photographs, silkscreens, and intimate mixed-media abstractions, *Madre Tierra* will take viewers on a journey through visual styles and thematic experiences of the landscape.

Landscape paintings, a genre that spanned cultures and centuries, have evolved significantly since their peak during the European Renaissance. Initially serving as a backdrop to narrative subjects, these paintings showcased an artist's technical skill in portraying the detailed beauty of nature. Over time, the genre transitioned from literal, naturalistic observations to personifying the Earth and its elements, effectively becoming the subjects of works like the ones featured in our exhibition. The visage of *Madre Tierra*, present among the depictions of flowers, trees, mountains, valleys, and other natural views, invites the audience to consider their relationship with the planet and forge a deeper connection.

Nate Cassie's approach to capturing the natural world through photography, printmaking, digital editing, and encaustic techniques results in otherworldly stills in everyday locations. With his head turned toward the sky, Cassie reveals the mysticism and intrigue of organic forms and their undervalued presence in our lives, challenging the uniquely human perspective of mundanity with an effervescent perspective. The digital altering of the image is countered by its physical printing application and illustrates the human desire to seek meaning and express understanding through reimagining and inner machinations. Similarly, Consuelo Jimenez Underwood weaves elements of spirituality from a historically Mesoamerican approach. Jimenez Underwood uses acrylic paint and a permanent marker on a stained, unstretched canvas reminiscent of treated hides to illustrate a modern recreation of ancient

stylization and narrative visual language. Even without great detail and definition between foreground and background, the artist still frames the two opposing figures with the necessary elements for symbolic interpretation.

Chuck Ramirez's *Words Series* explores the relationship between text and its impact on the viewer's interpretation of an image. In addition to photography, Ramirez had a strong background in graphic design and was involved with contemporary poetry and music. While the physical aspects of the image remain unchanged by the bold yellow lettering, the viewer subconsciously interprets the relationship between the word and the scenery and, thus, the impact of human cognition on personifying or relating to the world around us. In contrast, Andrés Ferrandis' sculpture *Sunrise* utilizes abstract found objects of differing materials to create a metaphorical view of the sunrise and its cast light. Straight lines, separation layers, and contrasting textures create an artificial landscape view determined by the viewers and the artist's relationship to the chosen objects. With wood transformed through painting, the manufacturing process and disposal of the other elements tie together the one-sided symbiosis of humanity on the Earth's surface and how our perspective of its value is often determined by the materials we can extract from it.

Eric Santoscoy-Mckillip contemplates memory, place, and identity in a telescopic way. Santoscoy-Mckillip's stuccoed pieces are clusters of signifiers, such as a serape, a rock formation, or abstractions of NASA space photographs that inspire him. The colors in the work reflect those ubiquitous on the Southern border: a saddle blanket, neon flake flowers, and the garden's soil he remembers from his grandmother's house. Similarly, Matt Kleberg's work is characterized by a bright color palette and unique forms that echo architectural elements. Blurring the lines between Byzantine, Renaissance, and modern design, Kleberg's work transports you into a liminal space where the mundane is celebrated, "I'm interested in the mechanic shop with an overly ornamental facade or the fish market with the elaborately arched gate" says the artist. In Constance Lowe's works, the artist draws upon elements rooted in the "ground truth" of empirical evidence and personal history. Through her multi-layered process, she employs tactics of collaging to tease abstract pictorial structures from her visual records of transitory landscapes seen from the air and lapping sea foam. Lowe maintains a conscious engagement with composite structures that are further activated by the interplay of color, ambiguities of space and scale, the immediacy of tension and play in the viewing experience of

map intersections, rifts, and transitional zones between the human-constructed world and natural phenomena.

The featured artists in the exhibition, each with their unique visual language, capture the essence of their environment, inviting the viewer to explore tonality and emotion through varying layers of elevation, capturing liminality, and abstracting the terrain.

### **About Ruiz-Healy Art**

Founded in San Antonio, TX, in 2006, Ruiz-Healy Art represents an international roster of artists, emphasizing Latinx and Latin American artists and working with prominent Texas-based artists. Biculturalism and identity discourse are important in several artists we collaborate with. In the spring of 2019, we opened a gallery space in the Upper East Side of New York City that works in tandem with the gallery in San Antonio as a platform to disseminate the artist's work. The continuous investments in these under-represented areas have remained a longstanding signature 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 LA 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.