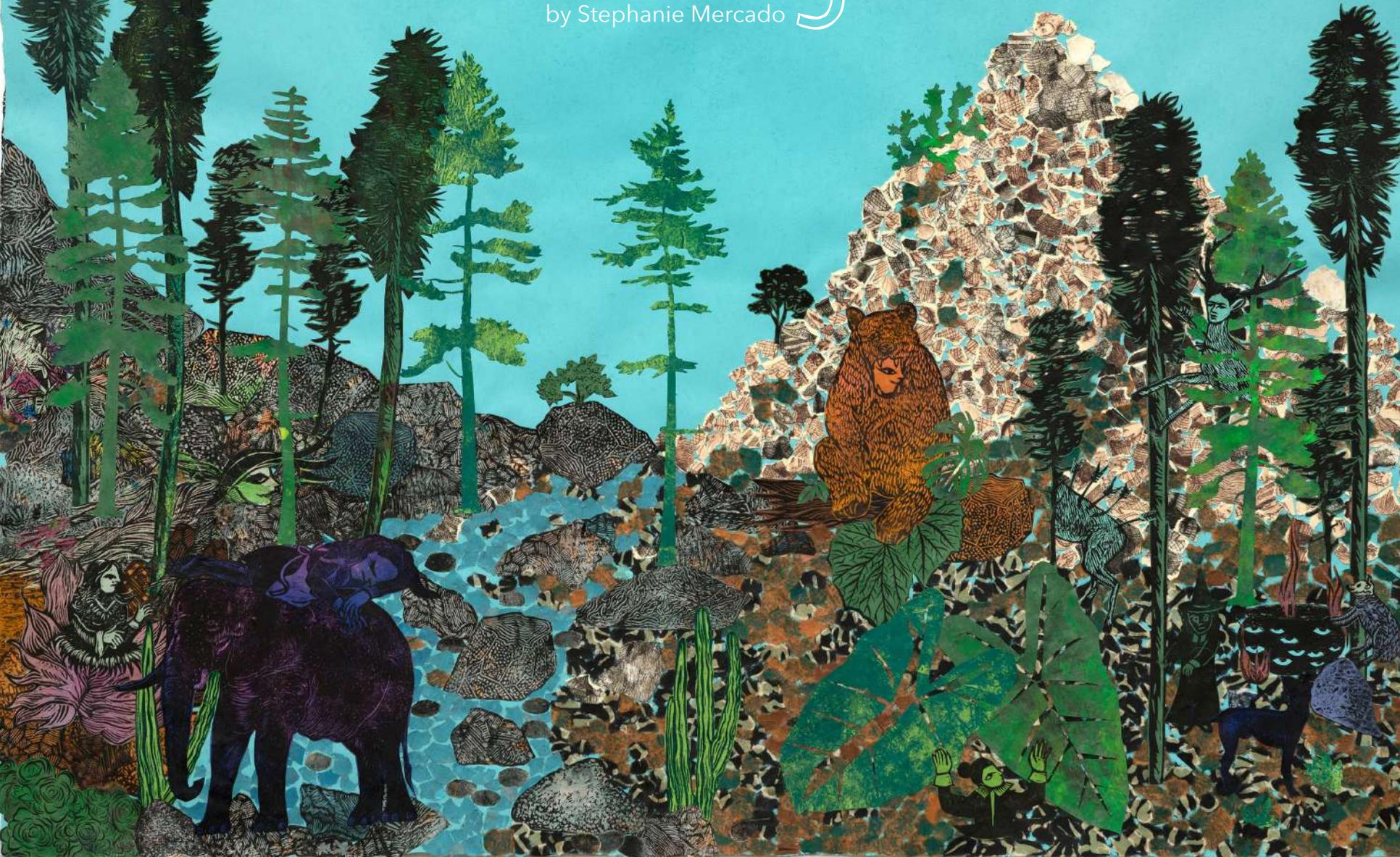




Emerge.

by Stephanie Mercado



Emerge: To become manifest

Emerge is a series of collages by Los Angeles based artist Stephanie Mercado. The works in the exhibition are constructed from hand-carved hand-printed elements and colored papers that merge traditional printmaking with experimental practices, fine art, and craft.

Mercado's artwork explores feminist narratives, including women in the labor force, domestic life, and the persecution of women through witch hunts. We often shape our identities by the work that we do, and working conditions can either make or break us. The pandemic recontextualized the role we each play in creating a functioning society. For many, especially women, blurred work-life boundaries led to mass resignations. Mercado's artwork evaluates the psychological effects capitalism has on workers and follows the journey of a character that breaks through the mold, in a rediscovery of self.

Emerge is an act of resistance to the pandemic, by creating and manifesting art and magic, from destruction, pain and loss. *Emerge* reclaims identity through alternate forms of knowledge and the natural world.

Professional, 2021, relief print collage, wood veneer on Bridget Riley exhibition invitation, 8 x 8" - paper size



Emerge I, 2022, relief print collage and gold leaf on paper, 11 x 11" - paper size





Emerge (Bear Hunt), 2022 (detail)

Atopkari



Hand painted paper



Discarded drypoint prints



Angeles National Forest, Mount Baldy, 2022



Incised foliage, poison oak



Relief printed florals, artist's studio, 2021

Nature, Connection, and Healing in a Pandemic World

The pandemic made inequities more transparent by emphasizing the disparities in the labor market and access to green space. Space-equity is a health and wellness issue. During the lockdown Mercado experienced the effect the pandemic had on the residents of Boyle Heights, where residents were being disproportionately affected due to intergenerational households, the positions residents held as frontline workers, and the need to take public transportation to and from work. For many people, one way to cope with the stress was to reconnect with nature by bringing plants into one's home or taking walks at the local park. Studies have shown that ecotherapy has beneficial, calming, and healing effects on one's physical and mental health.

Stephanie Mercado began to forest bathing and hiking the trails in the Los Angeles National Forest, once a week. This led to the inclusion of natural elements into her work, including plants, flowers, and wildlife. Immersing herself in natural environments inspired the new series that comprises *Emerge*. The *Emerge* series is an introspective and methodical body of work constructed from discarded prints, scraps of colored papers, and hand-carved relief prints. Throughout the work there are references to magic, folklore, and historical forms of knowledge where our connection to the natural world supersedes our identities as workers and cogs in capitalist machines.

Emerge II, 2022, relief print collage, 11 x 11" - paper size





Shapeshifter II, 2022 (detail)

Shapeshifter II, 2022, relief print collage, 14 x 10" - paper size



Untitled (Bear Hunt), 2022, relief print collage, 24 x 33" - paper size





Corona Virus Dreams, 2021 (detail)

Corona Virus Dreams, 2021, relief print collage, 24 x 33" - paper size



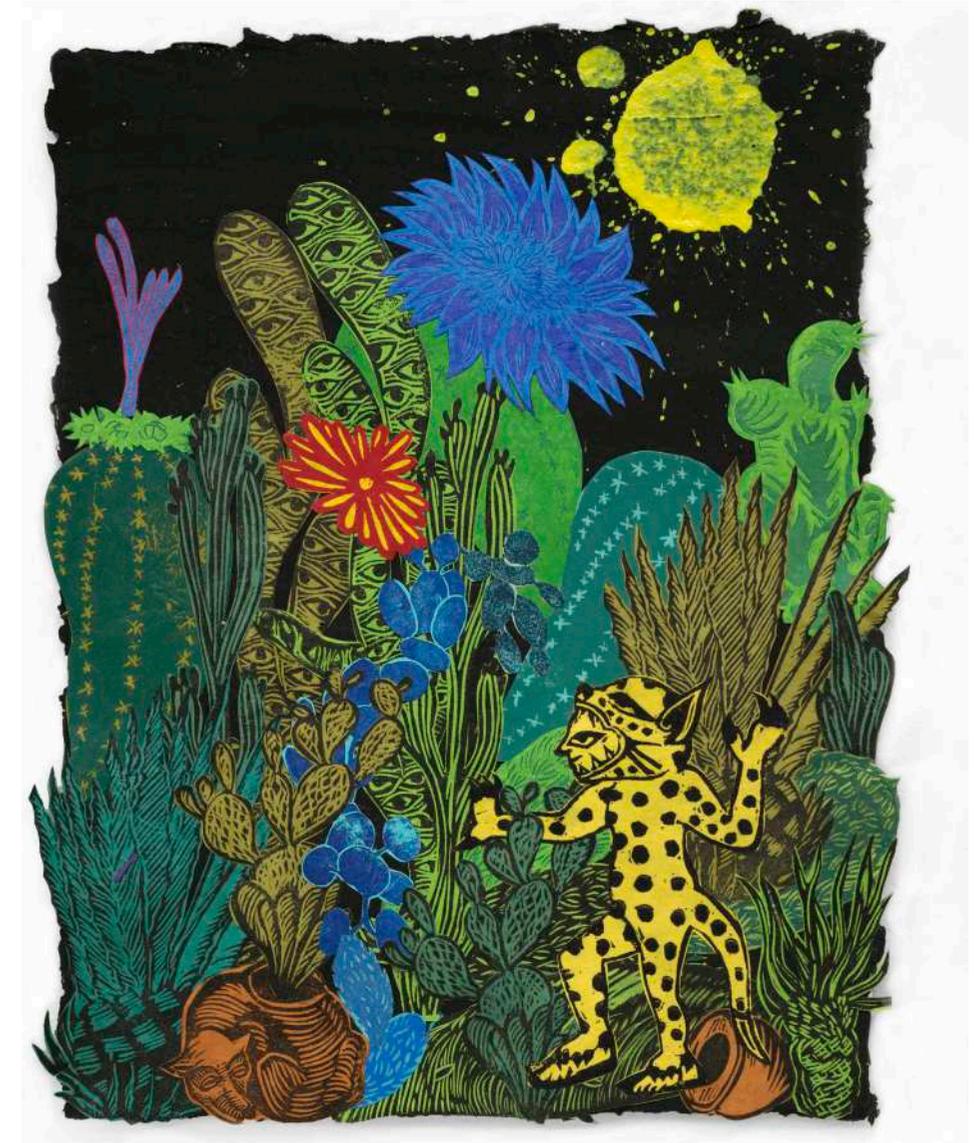
Untitled, 2022, relief print collage, 11 x 11"- paper size





Relief carving, artist's studio, 2022

Shapeshifter I, 2020, relief print collage, 12-1/4 x 10" - paper size



Emerge III, 2022, relief print collage, 8-1/4 x 9-1/4" - paper size



Untitled III (Blue Maid), 2020, relief print collage, 12-1/8 x 8-3/8" - paper size



Shapeshifter III, 2022, relief print collage, 11 x 10" - paper size



Untitled IV (Red Maid, Purple Maid), 2020, relief print collage, 12-1/8 x 8-7/8" - paper size



Untitled (Olmec II), 2022, relief print collage, 14 x 12-1/2"- paper size



Untitled IX (with Weeping Woman), 2020, relief print collage, 11-7/8 x 8-7/8" - paper size



Untitled (Knowledge), 2020, relief print collage, 12 x 9" - paper size



Untitled (Olmec I), 2022, relief print collage, 11 x 11"- paper size



Untitled I (with Andrew Wyeth), 2020, relief print collage, 11-7/8 x 8-7/8"- paper size

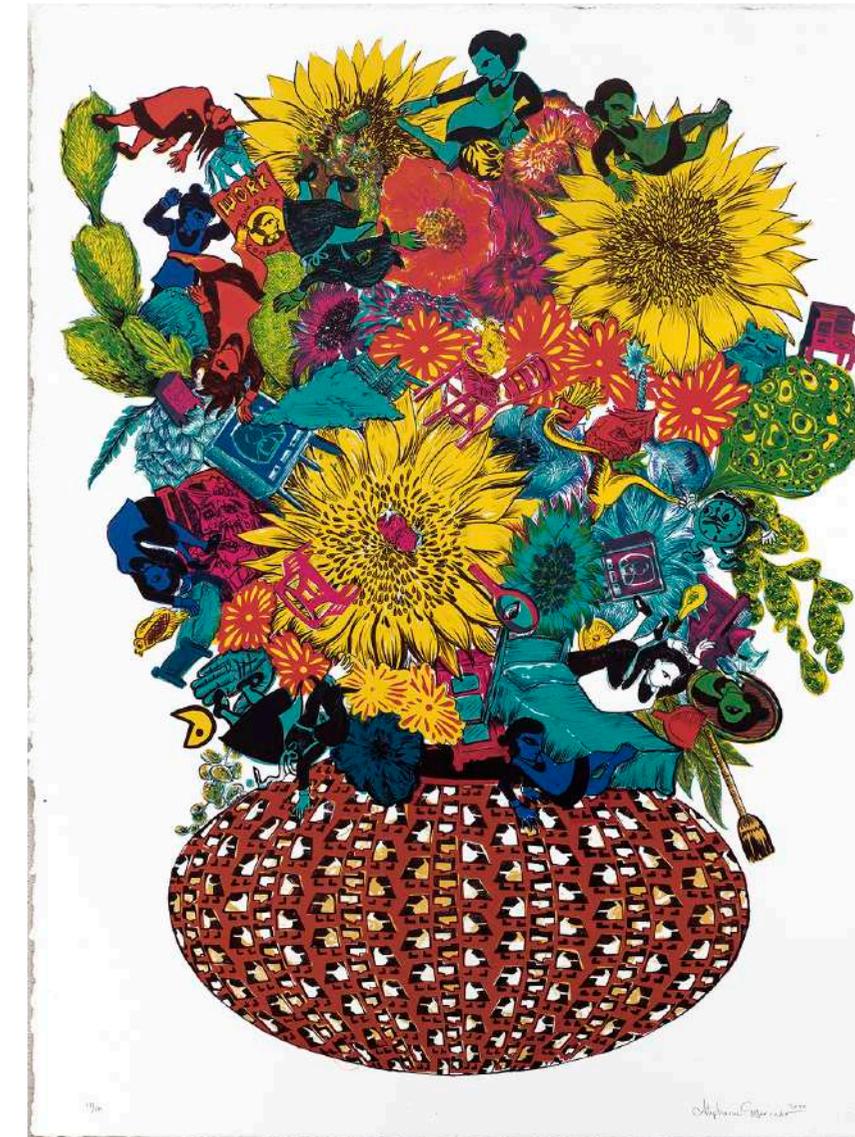




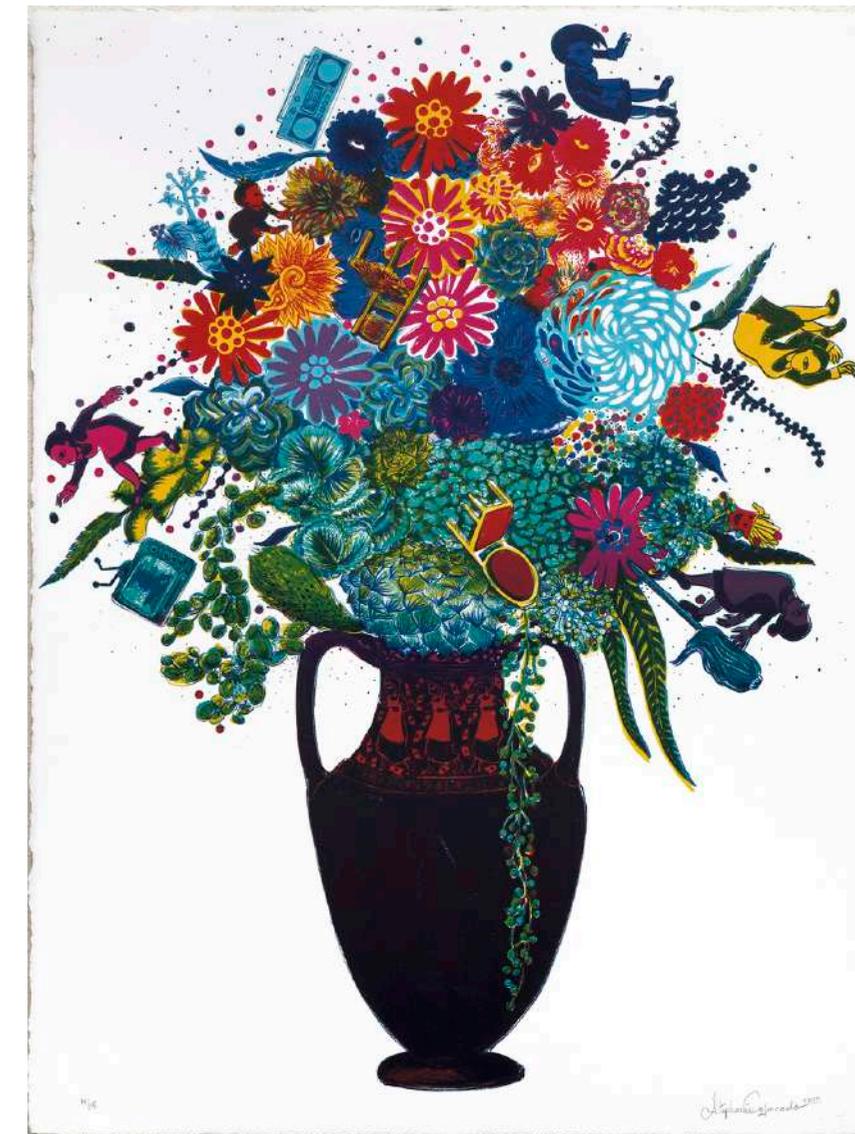
Tamarind Institute of Lithography, Albuquerque, New Mexico, February 2020



Flourish (for Maggie), 2020, lithograph, Ed. 18, 30 x 22"- paper size
Published by Tamarind Institute of Lithography
Master Printers, Maggie Middleton and Julie Bellavance



Flourish (for Julie), 2020, lithograph, Ed. 15, 30 x 22" - paper size
Published by Tamarind Institute of Lithography
Master Printers, Maggie Middleton and Julie Bellavance





Stephanie Mercado is an interdisciplinary artist and cultural worker born and raised in Boyle Heights, Los Angeles, a predominantly working class Latinx community. Her work is influenced by the do-it-yourself creative entrepreneurship that surrounds her. She grew up in a family of self-taught artisans who had nothing but their talent and drive to survive in LA. Her grandfather was an upholsterer, and her grandmother opened a fabric and craft store in the neighborhood. They offered credit and consignment opportunities to people who were trying to make a living as seamstresses, crafters, and stay-at-home mothers.

Her experience around tradespeople gave her the hope, tools, and work ethic that is necessary to sustain her creative practice. Her artwork is a combination of media including painting, printmaking, illustration, and video.

The core of her work has explored labor and the proverbial American Dream.

Her cultural work as an art administrator and in the public art sphere, is focused on empowerment and increasing representation and access to the arts.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 ***Emerge***, Hooks-Epstein Gallery, Houston, TX, June 2022 - July 2022
- 2021 ***Sustain: From Loss to Renewal, Essential Workers Portraits***, Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles, CA, September 2021 - March 2022
- 2017 ***Just a Title***, Hooks-Epstein Gallery, Houston, TX, September, 2017
- 2015 ***Live Through This***, Hooks-Epstein Gallery, Houston, TX, December, 2015
- 2014 ***There, Here, Now***, Hooks-Epstein Gallery, Houston, TX, July, 2014

SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 ***Many***, Craft Contemporary Museum, Los Angeles, CA
- 2021 ***Artists and Poems***, Suturo, virtual exhibition, Durden and Ray Gallery, Los Angeles, February 2021
- 2020 ***CA Society of Printmakers 106th Members Exhibition***, Piedmont Center for the Arts, Piedmont, CA, November - December 2020
- Under Pressure***, The Lincoln Center, Fort Collins, CO, February - April 2020
- 2019 ***Art of the Americas***, Central Campus Art Gallery, San Jacinto College, Houston, TX, curated by Carmen Champion, October - November 2019
- Umbra, New Prints for a Dark Age***, International Print Center New York, New York, NY curated by Alison Saar, August - September 2019
- ImMigration Project***, Scuola Internazionale di Grafica, Venezia, Italia, October - November 2019, curated by Mary Sherwood Brock, Los Angeles Printmaking Society
- 13th Annual California Centered: Printmaking Exhibition***, Merced Multicultural Arts Center, April 16 - June 1, 2019

RESIDENCIES

- 2022 **Breck Create**, Breckenridge, CO
- 2020 **Tamarind Institute of Lithography**, Albuquerque, NM
- 2013 **Serie Print Project**, Coronado Studios, Austin, TX

PUBLIC ART

- 2021 **East Los Luv**, 3rd and Dangler Housing Community Mural, NOW Art LA and National Core, mural to be installed in 2023
- 2020 **Silver Linings**, Metro Public Transit Authority, Metro Arts, Los Angeles, CA

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

- 2020 Metro Public Transit Authority, Metro Arts, Los Angeles, CA
- 2020 Tamarind Institute of Lithography, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM
- 2020 Southern Graphics Council International, Zuckerman Museum of Art, Kennesaw, GA
- 2013 Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, IN
- 2013 Mexic-Arte Museum, Austin, Texas

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2018 National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures

AWARDS

- 2020 **7th Annual International Juried Exhibition, First Prize Solo Exhibition**, Remarque Print Shop, Albuquerque, NM
- 2019 **Career Development Award**, International Print Center New York, New York, NY

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

- 2022 **Essential Workers**, Mid America Print Council Journal, Minneapolis, MN, May, 2022
- 2021 **Exhibit finds the Skirball and Star Trek on Common Ground**, Los Angeles Times, Tim Greiving, Los Angeles, CA, October, 2021
- Homaging Its Late Founder, Gallery's Holiday Show Ushers Viewers Outside the Box**, Houston City Book, Chris Decker, Houston, TX, December, 2021
- Box**, The Great God Pan is Dead, Robert Decker, Houston, TX, December, 2021
- Día de Muertos Digital Altar**, Los Angeles Times, November, 2021
- Labor Not Lost**, and Cover Art, Mid America Print Council Journal, Minneapolis, MN, April, 2021
- Artist Feature**, New York City's Young Professionals in Transportation, New York, NY, March, 2021
- Artist Feature**, CSULB 49er, Art and Culture section, Long Beach, CA, February, 2021
- Artist Feature**, Shout Out LA, Voyage LA Magazine, Los Angeles, CA, February, 2021
- 2019 **HIT Festival**, Exhibition Catalog, Haugesund Billedgalleri, 2019
- Kunstens skatt kiste åpnet i Haugesund (Art Treasure Chest Opened in Haugesund)**, Stavanger Aftenblad, Trond Borgen, May, 2019
- Art & Life**, Voyage LA Magazine, March 2019
- 2017 **Arts and Culture**, The State of the Arts, Houston - September, 2017
- Lives of Women**, Hollywood Reporter, April 2017

PUBLICATIONS CONTINUED

- 2014 **Opportunity Comes Knocking for Emerging Artists**, Molly Glentzer, Houston Chronicle, July 2014
- 2013 **On The Set, Entertainment Weekly**, Hollywood Design Report 2013 Mark Snetiker, Entertainment Weekly, November, 2013
- Blurred Lines, A Conversation Between Art and Fashion**, Jessica Gagliardi, Natural Child Magazine, July - August, 2013
- A Snow White Story, Turned on it's Head**, Carol Es, Huffington Post, May, 2013
- Artist Feature and Cover Art**, CRATE Magazine, University of Riverside, January 2013
- 2012 **Artist Feature**, South Pasadena, Highland Park Patch, Kristen Lepore, January 27, 2012
- 2011 **Artist Feature**, LOUD Mouth Magazine, Issue 18, Cover Art, January 2011
- 2010 **Haiku Review**, Mat Gleason, Huffington Post, October 2010
- 2010 **Rococo Love Triangle**, Meagan Boyd, The Examiner, October 16, 2010
- 2010 **Women on the Verge**, Richard May, Artillery, August 1, 2010
- 2009 **Racked, Grave Glamour at the Calavera Fashion Show**, Lisa Boosin, November 10, 2009
- Los Inbetween Review**, Holly Myers, Los Angeles Times, April 24, 2009

EDUCATION

California State University Long Beach , Long Beach, California
Bachelor of Fine Arts Drawing and Painting, Cum Laude

California State University International, Florence, Italy
Drawing and Painting International Program (Merit Scholarship)

AFFILIATIONS

- 2021 - current California Society of Printmakers, Board Member
- 2016 - current ArtTable, Professional Membership

Thank you.

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