



"I find it fascinating that a painting will provide an ever-changing experience for the viewer"



Jose Arenas- www.aha-fineart.com

Artist Statement

Much of my work revolves around having a dual identity, of dislocation and displacement, and a sense of disorientation from growing up in 2 countries. These two geographies, Mexico and the United States, were parallel worlds with distinct customs and rituals that have become a point of investigation in my work.

I explore this personal experience by creating collage style vignettes that become fully realized paintings. Metaphorical images like birds, navigational symbols that involve maps, compasses, and ships have been used to point to place, direction, and the feeling of living in a state of in-between. The process involves merging many visual styles and

representational methods that are manipulated both in a spontaneous and deliberate manner. The result is a pastiche of both familiar and abstract elements that create distinct narratives but also remain open to interpretation.

I find it fascinating that a painting will provide an ever-changing experience for the viewer, and that regardless of a symbol's fixed and literal representation, a host of meaningful and thought-provoking connections could emerge.

I like to think of personal everyday patterns, habits, and rituals as direct source for my artistic practice. In my work I combine decorative motifs, representational forms, and culturally specific symbols that generate multiple metaphorical relationships.

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JOSE ARENAS

b. 1971, San Jose, CA

Lives and works in New York, NY

Education

2000 MFA in Painting, University of California, Davis, CA

1995 BFA in Painting, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA

Solo and Two-Person Exhibitions

2012 Memory Laden, Yace Gallery, New York, NY

2010 American Pastiche, Hang Art, San Francisco, CA

Group Exhibitions

2012 Brooklyn Museum GO Open Studios, Brooklyn, NY

2012 I Gavel Auction, Daniel Cooney Fine Art, New York, NY

2012 Recess, Arcilesi and Homberg Gallery, New York, NY

2012 Dexterity, Love and Luxe, San Francisco, CA

2012 Permanent Collection, Nancy Margolis, New York, NY

2011 26 Reasons, Jimmie Gallery, Berkeley, CA

2011 Identity Shift: Migration, Identity, and Belonging, Arcilesi Fine Art & Gowanus Print Lab, New York, NY

2011 Navigations of the Fantastic, MACLA / Movimiento de Arte Y Cultura Latino Americana, San Jose, CA

2011 Take Me Home, Arcilesi Fine Art, New York, NY

2011 Bridges, Trees, Treasure Trails, NARS Gallery / NARS Foundation, Brooklyn, NY

2011 Surreptitious Fondness, NARS Gallery / NARS Foundation, Brooklyn, NY

Art Fairs

2013 Fountain Art Fair New York, Arcilesi Homberg Fine Art, NY

2011 Fountain Art Fair New York, Arcilesi Homberg Fine Art, NY

2011 Fountain Art Fair, Miami -Art Basel, Arcilesi Fine Art, NY

Professional

2012- present Board Member, ACNY / Art Connects New York, New York, NY

2010- present Adjunct Faculty, Parsons School of Design, New York, NY

2008-2010 Department Chair, Foothill College, Los Altos Hills, CA

2000-2010 Associate Professor of Art, Foothill College, Los Altos Hills, CA

Selected Bibliography

2010 A Little Piece of Happiness: Paintings of Jose Arenas, Hungry Button Books, Issue Date: December 2010.

2009 Whirligig, Interview, Issue Date: January 20, 2010