

City Art Gallery - Sergio Maciel

continued from Page 30

sen color for his primary tool to express his view of how he envisions some of the inequities and mobility issues of people from differing backgrounds and experiences.

"This series was created as a statement on ethnic stereotypes and racism in America. My work is meant to show the viewer the subtleties of racism that exist, using examples or terms I have witnessed personally or through the experiences of my friends and family. I want the paintings to create a dialogue with the viewer and have them question themselves and society. The work is meant to be subtle yet in-your-face, by not having the text as the main focus of each piece but having it play just as strong a role through its subtlety," says Maciel.

"The work focuses on three major elements; the figure, text, and color," adds Maciel. "The background and text are painted in similar colors to convey the subtle undertones of these different racial slurs or derogatory terms that represent the different ethnicities. The text is painted in such a way that it covers the canvas and becomes a design element within the background. The figure is then painted to convey a reaction to each term, partially covering the text, leaving it to the viewer to complete each term with the letters that are still visible. The figures are roughly painted, creating a sense of struggle and contrast between the figure and the text. The idea is to create a visual resistance or battle between the text and the figure."

"My work as a whole represents an issue that still exists in our society whether it be racism or classism. The differences between people will always exist, but understanding and respecting those differences is where my point is to be made. The melting pot that is the inner city is what drives and influences my state of mind or passion. Though it is far from right or perfect there is a common respect for others within the struggles of life that is somewhat genuine and not felt everywhere. Like many people, I get frustrated with certain individuals in society, and it seems being fake or politically correct instead of having a true mutual respect is the new norm. As an artist I express my



Work by Sergio Maciel

ideas through my work and feel that the work should not just be visually appealing but also convey a message that can resonate with people."

Sergio Maciel was born in Chicago, IL, in 1982. In 2005 as a young artist living in Chicago he had his first show "Just a Thought". He then decided he would have to leave his hometown to focus solely on his art. In 2007, he moved to Miami, FL, where he attended Miami International University of Art & Design. In 2010 Maciel received his BA in visual arts and was chosen to take part in the Arte Americas art fair in Miami, FL. In 2011 Maciel was accepted into the MFA program at the University of South Carolina where he will receive his degree in the spring of 2014.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 803/252-3613 or at www.cityartonline.com.

City Art Gallery in Columbia, SC, Offers Works by USC MFA Candidates

City Art Gallery in Columbia, SC, will present *Tetralogical Progress*, featuring works by Katie Boatman, Jeffrey Hodges, Shannon Lindsey, and LeeReyna Lopez Leyva, on view from Apr. 24 through May 10, 2014. A reception will be held on Apr. 24, from 5-9pm, during Columbia's Artista Vista 2014 celebration.

Exhibition Title:

This exhibition reflects the work developed by four Master of Fine Arts candidates focusing on Studio Art at the University of South Carolina. Individually, their works are conceptually diverse. Collectively, they develop works through various painting approaches, including traditional and mixed media processes. The exhibition represents a unique culmination of experimentation and growth. This is generated from the artists' communal dialogue and fellowship while sharing a studio warehouse. These close relationships directly influence their respective processes by means of shared inspirations, theories, and research.

The MFA candidates offered the following statements:



Work by Katie Boatman

Katie Boatman says, "I was born and raised in Tennessee, and I received my Bachelor of Fine Art from Belmont University in Nashville. My graduate school experience has significantly influenced the evolution of my artwork, as I am always



Work by Jeffrey Hodges

sensitive to my natural environment. It has broadened my realm of understanding and led me down a path of self-discovery, both personally and professionally. I create paintings that incorporate ambiguous and ethereal oceanic imagery to convey deeper psychological connotations and initiate critical discourse on topics of reality, origination, and the meaning of life."

Jeffrey Hodges says, "I was born and raised in the Mississippi delta and spent most of my childhood on a farm. My father was involved in wildlife management and conservation, which granted me constant access to premier resources of wild game. At its core, the archaic intersection and spiritual kinship between man and animal is shamanic and poignant. The paintings

continued on Page 32

Susan Lenz Threads: Gathering My Thoughts



Images are both details of *Gathering My Thoughts*

April 23 - May 1, 2014

On Exhibit at Studio Cellar
912 Lady Street • Columbia, SC

Reception: During the 23rd Annual Artista Vista Art Crawl

Thursday, April 24th, 5:00 - 9:00 pm

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