

IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 20, 2016
Galdámez Gallery: Palo Alto, CA
Location and Directions: <http://galdamezgallery.com>
Contact: curator@galdamezgallery.com

Territorios de la Memoria: Fragments of Identity
by Romeo Galdámez: November 19th, 2016

Palo Alto, CA: “Territorios de la Memoria: Fragments of Identity” is a one day pop-up exhibition on **November 19th 2016 from noon to 7pm** in the Historic District of Palo Alto. This will be a retrospective of Romeo Galdámez’ brilliantly composed collage serigraphs and mixed media works from 1990 to 2010. New works not previously exhibited will also be available for viewing. Known internationally for exhibitions of his work in Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Japan and his native El Salvador, this will be Galdámez’ inaugural solo show in California. Artist will be present at reception during this all-day show. **Location and Directions:** <http://galdamezgallery.com>

A master of multiple graphical arts, Galdámez has extended and innovated the form of *collage serigraph*. In some works he has applied more than 130 passes of different colors, images and screens to create a textured, layered composition. The result: powerfully photo-real, almost *trompe-l’oeil* collage serigraphs of great complexity, thought-provoking compositions of images from street culture as well as high art, arranged with exquisite balance and beauty. Galdamez’ works invite interpretation as uniquely accessible visual reflections on local and global cultural narratives and identities.

About Romeo Galdamez:

Born in 1956 in El Salvador, Romeo Galdámez was educated in Fine Arts and Design in El Salvador and Brazil. From 1983 to 2003 he resided, taught and practiced in his studio in Morelia, Mexico, expanding his portfolio of works in serigraph, oil and mixed media, and completing major commissions in Mexico and El Salvador. Galdamez has presented his art and installations individually in more than forty solo and juried shows and exhibitions at venues in Brazil, El Salvador, Uruguay, Mexico, Canada, and the United States, and has participated since 1976 in international group exhibitions in Latin America and the Caribbean, the United States, Canada, Europe, Japan, South Korea and Australia. On two occasions his work has been selected at the Osaka International Triennial, Japan. In 2003, Romeo resettled permanently in El Salvador where he has launched new works and installations as well as serving in curatorial and art direction roles for important Salvadoran exhibitions and cultural events. Since 2004 in addition to his studio work and art direction projects he has held a number of positions in cultural and external affairs for the government of El Salvador. Since 2014, he serves as Director de Promoción de Cultural, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de El Salvador.

Reviews

“Hollywood superstars, soldiers, and indigenous people live in perfect harmony among bar codes, lotería cards, and sweatshop sewing machines. This is the world as seen through the eyes of Romeo Galdamez, the Salvadoran graphic artist.” observed reviewer and cultural critic Erika Saca. “In Galdamez’ work contradicting textures and paradox realities come together to make both a graphic and an ideological statement, Think Rauschenberg meets García Canclini’s ‘Hybrid Cultures’. A master of serigraphy, he has re-dimensioned this flat technique [...] and given it new volumes.”

Vancouver critic Colin Fraser observes, “The layers of color upon color are like the superimposition of culture upon culture in Latin America, with remnants of culture and color insistently refusing to disappear.”

“I inscribe his work in the epistolary genre,” remarks Mexican poet and critic Neftalí Coria. “His themes have to do with distance, with lost territories, in the end with nostalgia. My attention is on the balance of the composition in his work. The gathering up of all the stories he tells us and finally the artist’s sorcery in knowing when the geometry has bewitched the hands in the ritual of creation.”

New York-based Latin American critic Graciela Kartofel has written, “The art work of Romeo Galdámez falls into a category I call *Dialogue Art* – the dialogue of a certain culture throughout different historical periods... He does not destroy [the past] to rebuild it but places it in his neo-conceptual structure, holding it to the flat surface of the graphed paper. He traces the images and gives expressive power to them with no intention of destruction or replacement. The technical process is clearly outstanding, without need to glorify it. It’s secret [is] a cloning that is definitely historic and aesthetic. Robert Rauschenberg has the type of intellectual restlessness one finds in Galdámez. [The] important objective [is] to create a piece of art that moves people day after day while it also moves thought.”

Location and Directions: <http://galdamezgallery.com>

Artist Website: <http://romeogaldamez.com>

Request an official invitation to this one-day show: curator@galdamezgallery.com

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