



Sueñx

Curated by Cesar Garcia-Alvarez

Nov. 19, 2022 - March 11, 2023

Despite their European origins, Surrealism and Magical Realism feature prominently in the history of Latin America. A cultural movement and a literary and artistic style, respectively, both grapple with the notion of the real—challenging how we think about the worldly and otherworldly. They found their way across the Atlantic with artists, writers, and intellectuals fleeing a war-torn continent and eventually evolved significantly in the Americas. Their similarities have encouraged a narrative that often positions them as a single genre seeped in the wondrous. Their differences however, are not as nuanced as they seem, and when considered, reveal two very distinct legacies.

After WWI, Surrealists in Europe sought to revolutionize the human experience by challenging reason and the systems that structured how people lived. Inspired by the potential of the unconscious, they made works that championed the irrational and unexpected. Melting clocks, sky-filled eyes, and lobster telephones joined the repertoire of fantastical images, objects, texts, and sounds that emerged to negate the world as it was in order to envision a new one altogether. Magical Realists, on the other hand, didn't ponder other worlds— they confronted the absurdities of the one they inhabited.

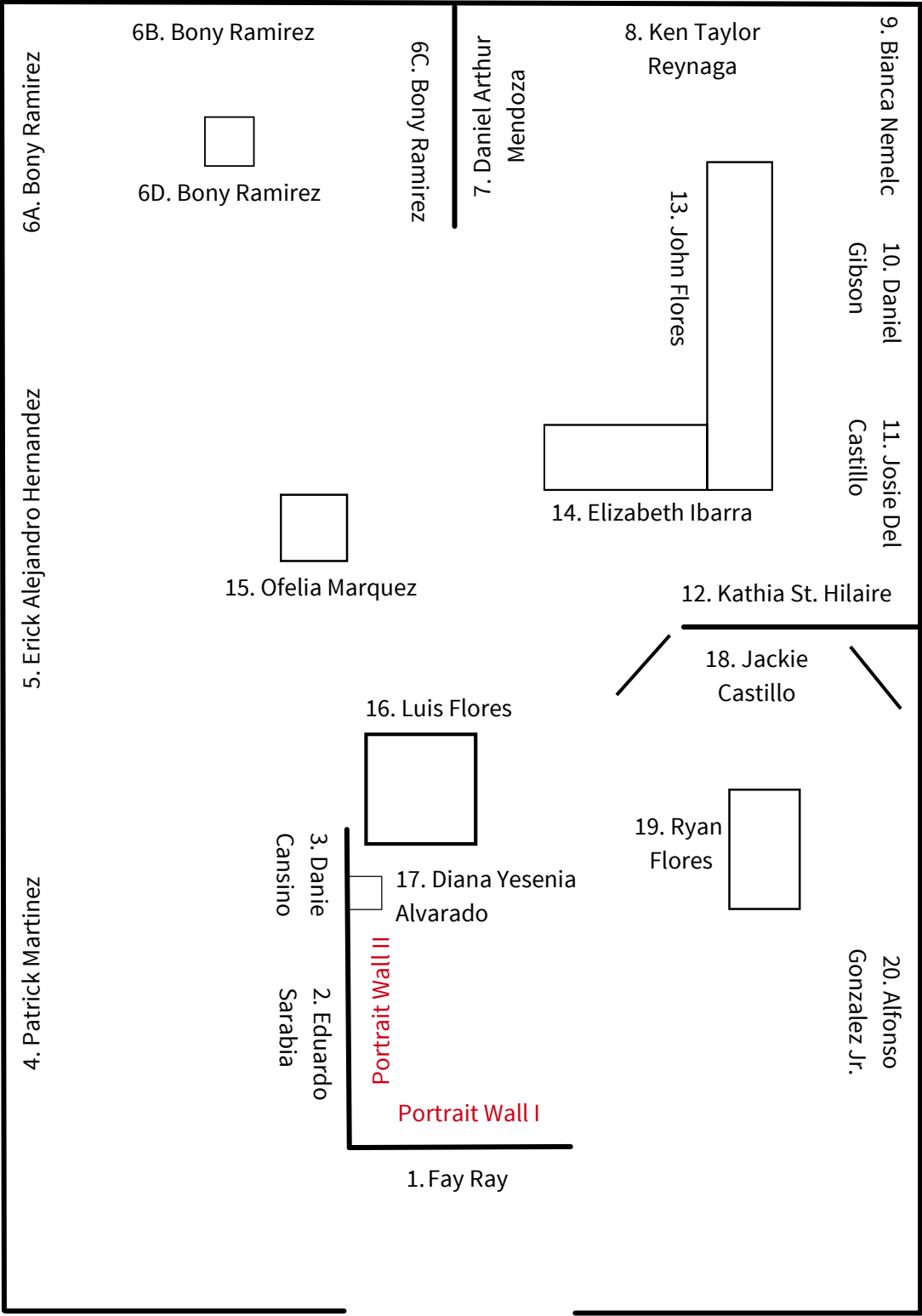
Popularized in Latin America through literature, Magical Realism grew beyond a style to become a kind of language. Those who engaged with it wrote stories and made artworks that treated the fantastical as part of the ordinary. What appeared estranged and magical in their work was not a depiction of an alternative realm but rather a view into the lives endured by those unlike us. Those invested in Magical Realism rejected the Western idea of a singular reality and instead portrayed the conditions that shaped their worlds even if to some they seemed extraordinary and unreal. Collectively, their legacy shed light on the fact that a multiplicity of realities can exist at once.

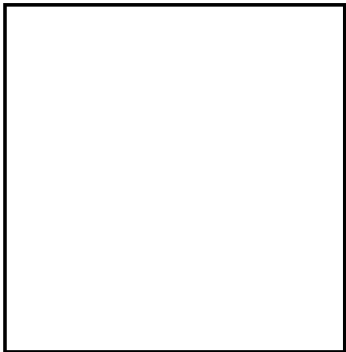
Recently, as contemporary artists have tried to make sense of a world transformed by a global pandemic, many have cited influences of Surrealism in their work. For artists of color however, specially Latinx artists, this moment has been less about abandoning the present and more about making visible the circumstances that have created it—echoing the legacy of Magical Realists.

This exhibition brings together Latinx artists whose recent works revel in the fantastical in order to expose dimensions of the everyday. Each contribution to this show stands in for a life lived and the strangeness they present us with is but a lens into varying experiences of our world. From housing to the environment, food politics and mental health, the body and representation, the artists in this exhibition provide readings of the real that challenge master narratives. What emerges is a gathering of truths that speak to the complexities of our current moment.

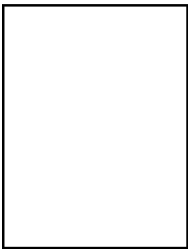
The exhibition's title, *Sueñx*, is inspired by a book edited by Argentinian writer Jorge Luis Borges. In it he gathered descriptions of dreams by historical figures. Rather than interpret them, he invites readers to do so, and in turn, find how their own dreams relate to the ones of those who came before them. Magical Realism in this show is not a shared theme but rather a soundtrack of sorts that the works move to in their own way. Each work forges a world and as they hold space together they invite you, the visitors, to seek the contours of your own realities. This proposition aims to provide an exhibition framework that embraces difference and allows for contradicting Latinx experiences to partake in unfinished dialogues rather than seek to define a resolved definition of what being Latinx is.

Acknowledging that exhibitions by their nature demand that we find similarities rather than distinctions, this show follows the unconventional structure of Magical Realist novels—allowing itself to be disrupted and fractured by programs, events, and other happenings that broaden the exhibition beyond the gallery walls; allowing it to be experienced in numerous ways.





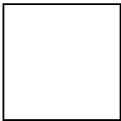
1. Daniel Arthur Mendoza



2. Fay Ray



3. Marcel Pardo Ariza



4. Veronica Fernandez



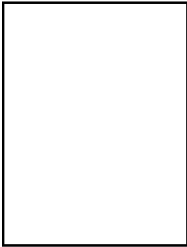
5. Ofelia Marquez



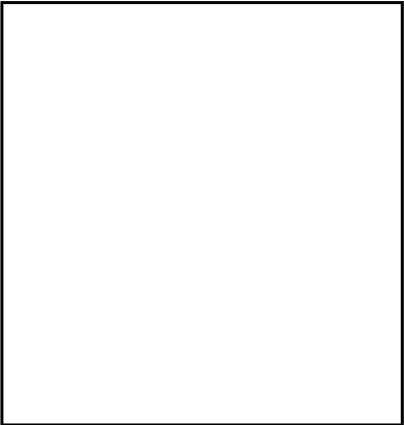
6. Hely Omar Gonzalez



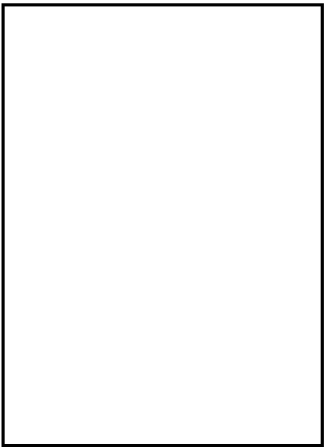
7. Amina Cruz



1. Fay Ray



2. Maria A. Guzmán Capron



3. Star Montana

Sueñx

CHECKLIST

1A. Fay Ray

Dendrite, 2019

Polyvinyl acetate and archival inkjet prints

16 x 19 inches

1B. Fay Ray

Allow, 2019

Polyvinyl acetate and archival inkjet prints

16 x 19 inches

2. Eduardo Sarabia

This must be the place, 2012-2022

Acrylic on arches paper

22.24 x 29.92 inches

3. Danie Cansino

El Velo Entre (The Veil Between), 2022

Oil on Wood

36 x 48 inches

4. Patrick Martinez

Defeat and Victory, 2020

84 x 192 inches

5. Erick Alejandro Hernandez

Subway Scene (Otro Filos de Fuego), 2019

Oil, acrylic, markers, and ballpoint pen on canvas

134 x 229 inches

6A. Bony Ramirez

First Victory, 2020

Acrylic, soft oil pastel, color pencil, Scalpel blades, pastel paper, bristol paper on wood panel

48 x 36 inches

6B. Bony Ramirez

TORO, 2022

Acrylic, soft oil pastel, color pencil, wallpaper, bristol paper on wood panel

48 x 60 inches

6C. Bony Ramirez

La Mamá De Perla, 2022

Acrylic, color pencil, soft oil pastel, wallpaper, varied seashells, bristol paper on wood panel

48 x 48 inches

6D. Bony Ramirez

El Monaguillo (Self portrait as calf), 2022

Taxidermy calf, dulled metal switchblades, seashell

27 x 18 x 15 inches

7. Daniel Arthur Mendoza

Beneath the Joy, of Course, Was Anguish and Beneath the Amazement Was Fear, 2021

Second hand bed sheets, tulle, sequin backdrop curtain, colored pencil, thread, metal hardware.

76 x 68 x 7 inches

8. Ken Taylor Reynaga

Landscape with Alcatraz', 2021

Oil on canvas

38.5 x 95 inches

9. Bianca Nemelc

Hot Brown Cool Breeze Under Trees, 2022

Oil on canvas

40 x 40 inches

10. Daniel Gibson

Pickin' flowers, 2019

Oil on canvas

72 x 56 inches

11. Josie Del Castillo

Personal Growth, 2020

Oil on panel

30 ¼ x 48 inches

12. Kathia St. Hilaire

Venus de Milo, 2022

Oil based relief, canvas

13A. John Flores

Sun Follower, 2021

Ceramic and underglaze

17 x 10 inches

13B. John Flores

Star Gazing, 2019

Ceramic and underglaze

16 x 13 x 13 inches

13C. John Flores

Sprouting, 2021

Ceramic and underglaze

25 x 10 x 7 inches

13D. John Flores

Monocarpic, 2021

Ceramic and underglaze

19 x 9 x 13 inches; Flowers are 4-5 inches in diameter.

13E. John Flores

Bud, 2021

Ceramic and underglaze

29 x 11 x 6 inches

13F. John Flores

New Places New Faces (Seed Pod 1), 2022

Ceramic

7 x 9 x 5 inches

13G. John Flores

New Places New Faces (Seed Pod 2), 2022

Ceramic

7 x 9 x 5 inches

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CHECKLIST

13H. John Flores

Cactus Head 1, 2022

Ceramic and underglaze

5 x 6 inches

13I. John Flores

Cactus Head 2, 2022

Ceramic and underglaze

5 x 6 inches

14A. Elizabeth Ibarra

Sunday Finding (figure with giraffe's neck), 2018

Found branches

16.75 x 8 x 4 inches

14B. Elizabeth Ibarra

Girl (Sunday Finding), 2020

Tree bark and branch

13 x 10.88 x 4.25 inches

14C. Elizabeth Ibarra

Seated Figure (Sunday Finding), 2018

Tree bark and branch

13 x 12 x 4 inches

14D. Elizabeth Ibarra

Male Dancer (Sunday Finding), 2019

Pine needles, tree bark and branch

12 x 7 x 4 inches

14E. Elizabeth Ibarra

Tall Dog (Sunday Finding), 2018

Tree bark and branch

16.38 x 4.38 x 4 inches

14F. Elizabeth Ibarra

Turtle (Sunday Finding), 2018

Tree bark and branch

10 x 5 x 4 inches

14G. Elizabeth Ibarra

On balance (Sunday Finding), 2019

Tree bark and branch

11 x 8.50 x 4 inches

14H. Elizabeth Ibarra

Beautiful Face (Sunday Finding), 2019

Tree bark and branch

12 x 4 x 3 inches

15A. Ofelia Marquez

transient threads(Eligh), 2017

Gilded basswood, metal, recycled fabric, phone screens, mirror

13 x 13 x 52 inches

15B. Ofelia Marquez

do tell..., 2017

Basswood, spray paint, metal, reconfigured loteria cards

48 x 27 x 16 inches

16. Luis Flores

Thunder and Glory, 2019

Yarn, AAA t-shirt, Levi's jeans, Vans shoes, socks, chair, and ladder

Dimensions variable

17. Diana Yesenia Alvarado

TBT, 2020

Ceramic, glaze, flocking

24 x 12 x 16 inches

18. Jackie Castillo

There is No Outside, 2018

Archival pigment print, xerox paper, wood, fan

Dimensions Variable: Wall Mounted Work: 65 x 96 inches.

Other two works: 34 x 72 inches

19. Ryan Michael Flores

Still Life with Purple Vessel and Fruits, 2017-2022

Ceramics

Dimensions Variable

20. Alfonso Gonzalez Jr.

98 cents store, 2020

Enamel, oil, stucco, dirt on canvas

48 x 100 inches

PORTRAIT WALL I

1. Daniel Arthur Mendoza

Not Long Ago, 2022

Second hand pillowcase, sequin backdrop curtains, tulle, colored pencil, thread.

34 x 43.5 inches

2. Fay Ray

No Place No One: Husk, 2020

Polyvinyl acetate and archival inkjet prints

22 x 18.5 inches

3. Marcel Pardo Ariza

Louis en cuero, 2021

Archival inkjet print

23 x 16 inches

4. Veronica Fernandez

When The Money Comes From God We Share It, 2020

Acrylic, oil on wood

12 x 12 inches

5. Ofelia Marquez

cuando los labios callan..., 2017

Brass, found box, plexi, metal snake, carved wood, oil, metal

11 x 12 inches

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CHECKLIST

6. Hely Omar Gonzalez

Toyota Mini with a Buff Snack Reprise, 2022

Oil, acrylic on canvas

48 x 60 inches

7. Amina Cruz

Uhuru #8, 2021

Archival inkjet print

24 x 36 inches

PORTRAIT WALL II

1. Fay Ray

No Place No One: Pinecone, 2020

Polyvinyl acetate and archival inkjet prints

22 x 18.5 inches

2. Maria A. Guzmán Capron

Sombra, 2021

Fabric, thread, batting, latex paint, spray paint and acrylic paint

41 x 37 inches

3. Star Montana

La Chuca, 2015

Archival inkjet print

40 x 32 inches

CREDITS

Unless noted below works are courtesy of the artists.

Fay Ray: Courtesy of the artist and Shulamit Nazarian Gallery

Danie Cansino: Courtesy of the artist and Charlie James Gallery

Patrick Martinez: Collection of Tina Perry-Whitney and Ric Whitney

Ken Taylor: Courtesy of the artist and Simchowitx Gallery

Elizabeth Ibarra: Courtesy of the artist and Simchowitx Gallery

Kathia St. Hilaire: Collection of Laurie Ziegler

Daniel Gibson: Courtesy of SIMCOR

Diana Yesenia Alvarado: Courtesy of SIMCOR

Alfonso Gonzalez Jr.: Courtesy of SIMCOR

Maria Guzman Capron: Collection of Mélanie Faure

Luis Flores: Courtesy of the artist and Matthew Brown

Marcel Pardo Ariza: Courtesy of the artist and OCHI Projects

Veronica Fernandez: Private Collection