

Sigue Pasando Por Aquí

March 31 - July 15, 2023

EXCLUSIVE PRESS WALKTHROUGH

Tuesday, April 4, 12:30PM

OPENING RECEPTION

March 31, 5-7pm


Venezuelan-American artist constructs 15-foot zootrope from woodcuts in kinetic show about heritage and migration in New Mexico and South America.

(March 2023) "Enrique Figueredo is a printmaker, but his new show is sculptural and kinetic," says Gallery Director Jordan Eddy. "It's a literal and conceptual centrifuge, tumbling together complex experiences of timekeeping, placemaking, globalization and hybridization." Figueredo's expansive solo exhibition at Zane Bennett Contemporary Art, *Sigue Pasando Por Aquí*, is anchored by a massive zootrope machine, 15 feet in diameter and made from woodcut prints. This monumental piece and two other major bodies of work offer a comprehensive view of the Venezuelan-American artist's visual inquiries into real and revised histories through relief printmaking and immersive installation. **An opening reception will be held on Friday, March 31 from 5 – 7pm.**

Though Enrique Figueredo immigrated to the United States from Venezuela at a young age, familial relationships and a complicated sense of cultural belonging have cemented the history and context of the artist's home country as a central concern in his practice. Youthful memories of New Mexico road trips led Figueredo to settle in Santa Fe for many years as an adult. In his time here, the artist became fascinated with the ruins and remnants of Spanish colonial conquest. **After tracing the legacy of missions through the state via the Camino Real, Figueredo has spent the last few years rendering these structures as woodcuts, focusing on the formal qualities that unite these structures founded on the same foundation of religious brutality.** He pairs this imagery with graphite rubbings of Spanish colonial graffiti that scars petroglyph sites across the Southwest.

Navigating the weight of this violence in an image-saturated, American culture that seems increasingly averse to the serious discussion of misrepresented histories has manifested in works that interrogate issues from a place of humor, innovation and reverence for Figueredo. In *Sigue Pasando Por Aquí*, the swirling trajectories of culture and history manifest outside of colonial contexts as well, culminating in novel interpretations of viral Youtube videos, bold re-imaginings of ancient landscapes and invented, beastly sentries as monumental woodcut blocks that not only reclaim but celebrate the potential histories lost in the wake of conquest.

As a fitting conceptual gesture, this exhibition is grounded in an immersive zootrope that animates woodcut imagery of a tumultuous storm rolling into view over Caracas, echoing the slow dread that political and personal hypervigilance forces onto its victims. To the artist, the work's dynamism represents the dizzying pace of the world today—and the ways in which contemporary storytelling can collapse timelines and geographies, for better and for worse.

Enrique Figueredo is a Venezuelan-American artist and printmaker living in Austin, Texas where he is an Assistant Professor in Printmaking at the University of Texas. He received his BFA from SUNY Purchase in 2004 and MFA at Rutgers University in 2019. Figueredo is the 2023 Artist in Residence at Flatbed Press and has additionally received the VCUarts Fountainhead Fellowship, the Nadine Goldsmith Fellowship at the Vermont Studio Center, and other honors.

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