

Origen

prints by

Marco Hernandez
of Wichita, Kansas

Statement

My current body of work explores themes associated with contemporary Mexican and Mexican American cultures. I am inspired by my personal experiences growing up as a Mexican immigrant in California and the Midwest. Mexican and Mexican American symbols play a large role in my prints. The symbols span from ancient Mesoamerican imagery to contemporary popular cultural objects. Life experiences and a traditional Mexican upbringing have influenced my thoughts and beliefs; and ultimately have been inspirational to the imagery and meaning in my current work.

I immigrated with my family to the United States when I was very young. I was introduced to a new culture, language, and other struggles that would have to be overcome. I felt a loss of my cultural roots as I grew older. These and other experiences influenced my thoughts and beliefs about my unique personal identity. Being born in Mexico and raised in a traditional Mexican family has taught me to be proud and embrace my roots.

The art of printmaking provides me with the flexibility of technique and process necessary for my content development. Experimenting in the studio is as important as historical research in my search for content and ideas. The initial inspiration for my current work comes from several sources, including old black and white photographs depicting Mexican life from around 1910 through 1940, personal photographs taken from my trips to Mexico, and contemporary interpretations of Mexican events and traditions. With these in mind, I use printmaking to visually create powerful and interesting compositions with an emphasis on highly delicate printmaking techniques. Inspiration, technique, and



La Catedral Escondiendo las Raices (The Cathedral Hiding the Roots) by Marco Hernandez

the print medium may vary between prints but my curiosity, hard work ethic, and patience always remain constant.

Biography

Marco Hernandez is a Mexican Artist/Printmaker who currently resides in Kansas. He received his Master of Fine Arts Degree from Kansas State University in 2015. After receiving his MFA degree, he was hired as an art instructor at Kansas State University, and became the Printmaking area coordinator for one semester. In the fall of 2016, Mr. Hernandez was hired as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Print Media at Wichita State University (WSU). He is currently still teaching at WSU and his current position is Assistant Teaching Professor of Print Media and Foundations Coordinator.

Mr. Hernandez's work has been exhibited in many national and international exhibitions which include the International Print Center New York, Delta National, Americas: Paperworks/All Media, and the Atlanta Print Biennial. His work has been exhibited in several countries including Mexico, Canada, Colombia, Poland, and Croatia and has received numerous awards including purchase awards, merit awards, best of show, and solo show invitations. Mr. Hernandez has also earned two artist fellowships and has attended several artist residencies including the Vermont Studio Center, Zea Mays Printmaking, and Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts.

His art, deeply influenced by his cultural background, reflects his optimistic commitment to a lifelong career as both an artist and educator.

This exhibition is sponsored in part by Radio Kansas



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Gallery Hours: Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.