

For Immediate Release
April 25, 2023
Contact | Margery Gossett
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Artspace111 Presents Three New Solo Exhibitions from May 11 – June 17, 2023

Clean Hands | Benjamin Muñoz

Site one | Artspace111 Main Gallery | May 11, 2023 – June 17, 2023
Site two | Love Texas Art | May 13 - May 28, 2023

Iterations | David Wolske

Artspace 111 Great Gallery | May 11, 2023 – June 17, 2023

I want to be Famous | Kaima Marie Akarue

Artspace111 Solo Solo Space | May 11, 2023 – June 17, 2023

Opening Reception, Thursday, May 11, 2023, from 5-7:30 pm.

Artspace111 Presents Three Solo Exhibitions for artists: Benjamin Muñoz, David Wolske, and Kaima Marie Akarue

Fort Worth, TX - Artspace111 is honored to present three new exhibitions from May 11 through June 17, 2023. These three exhibitions will be held at 111 Hampton Street in the 3,000 square foot historic building. Each of these three distinct solo exhibitions, featuring artists Benjamin Muñoz, David Wolske, and Kaima Marie Akarue, emphasizes the artistic merit of one another while showcasing the unique processes each artist employs in their work.

"We are thrilled to showcase these three extraordinary artists, each with their distinctive artistic approach. Despite their diverse styles and methods, they share a common thread - the exploration of identity, culture, and perception. By presenting their work together, we aim to provide a compelling narrative that highlights the interconnectedness of their art and their shared passion for innovation." - Margery Gossett, Gallery Owner and Director of Artspace111

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Benjamin Muñoz: Clean Hands

In his latest body of work, Benjamin Muñoz redefines power by celebrating the Chicano people's resilience, strength, and ambition. Through vibrant, textured backgrounds and iconic Calavera figures, Muñoz honors the endeavors of past generations, shifting the narrative and empowering Chicano culture. Drawing on the rich Chicano culture of his upbringing, Muñoz's work captures the spirit of inter-generational labor and the triumphs of the Chicano community.

As a second-generation Mexican immigrant, Muñoz grew up in Texas, immersed in the region's rich Chicano culture. The title of the exhibition, "Clean Hands," refers to a conversation Muñoz had with a group of fellow artists, each a descendant of immigrants from Mexico. They discussed their family histories, revealing that physical labor played a significant role in their lives. Their fathers and grandfathers worked in construction, mechanics, oil fields, and other skilled labor jobs. Although these friends recognized the value and honor of such work, they admitted that they would not want to follow the same path. Their "clean hands" symbolize the opportunities and experiences afforded to them because of their families' sacrifices and determination.

The figures and stories in Muñoz's new ambitious body of work (spanning two sites throughout the course of the exhibition) are triumphant celebrations – a love letter to his culture. Muñoz says, "I wanted to make work that told the story of how powerful we are as a race and as a people. I think it is okay to take a breath and look back at what we've done, then go right back to fighting for more."

About Benjamin Muñoz

Benjamin Muñoz is a Dallas based artist whose primary focus is printmaking. His work is often reflective of his heritage, upbringing, and current surroundings. Muñoz stacks the imagery in his work to symbolize the idea of everything in life being dependent on what came before it. A largely self-taught artist, Muñoz has had several solo exhibitions throughout the United States and his artwork is in several museum and private collections across the United States such as the Mexic-Arte Museum and the National Museum of Mexican Art. Muñoz currently serves as board president of Print Austin and is the founder/director of Familia Printshop in Dallas, Texas. His work has been published and discussed in several arts and culture publications, blogs, podcasts and portfolios. And he regularly gives artist talks at studios, galleries, and universities throughout the country.

David Wolske: Iterations

David Wolske combines contemporary and historical processes to transform letters, numbers, and punctuation into visual poetry. Merging digital design tools with letterpress and fine art printmaking traditions, Wolske's compositions explore conceptual dichotomies, inviting viewers to create their interpretations.

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Central to David Wolske's art is an innovative printing technique he created, which he refers to as "isotype" printing—a combination of the words "isolate" and "type." This groundbreaking method allows Wolske to manipulate the fundamental components of letters, such as stems, bowls, and serifs, to craft a distinct language characterized by its dynamic vocabulary. The resulting compositions delve into conceptual dichotomies, including control versus chaos, symmetry in contrast to asymmetry, and the interplay between harmony and dissonance.

Wolske's interdisciplinary practice features two distinct modes of working: controlled methods that translate digital compositions into handmade prints incorporating his collection of antique wood and metal types., and improvisation on his Vandercook proofing presses, which fosters curiosity-driven unpredictability and propels his practice forward.

About David Wolske

David Wolske (b. 1975 in Hobart, Indiana) is a typo/graphic designer, artist, and educator. He is currently an Assistant Professor in the College of Visual Arts and Design at the University of North Texas. His interdisciplinary practice combines the traditions of letterpress and printmaking with digital tools and design thinking. Wolske's work is exhibited and collected nationally and internationally. He is the IS Projects 2021 Exhibiting Artist Resident; a 2020 LHM Educator Fellow at the Hoffnitz Milken Center for Typography at ArtCenter College of Design; the College Book Art Association 2018 Emerging Educator; 2016 Visiting Artist at Hatch Show Print; and a 2014 Utah Visual Arts Fellow.

SOLO SOLO Space | *Kaima Akarue: I want to be famous*

Solo Solo is an exhibition space awarded to the winner of the prior year's Annual Texas Juried Exhibition. In 2022, Kaima Marie Akarue's piece "*Should I put my hands in my pocket?*", made of acrylic and crushed glass on canvas won Best In Show or Top Prize. In this exhibition, titled *I want to be famous*, Akarue skillfully employs nostalgia to construct a thought-provoking narrative on fame. The viewer is challenged to comprehend the complex interplay between sacrifice and desire experienced by the subject. Akarue's art combines elements of childhood memories, personal interests, and iconic figures to seamlessly integrate their individual journeys, ultimately illustrating the artist's own ambivalence towards fame.

Each of Akarue's paintings incorporates texture to craft a fragmented reality, while the meticulous use of glass serves as a barrier, complicating the distinction between perception and reality. Viewers are encouraged to decipher and piece together the underlying message potentially hinting at shattered dreams or fragmented memories.

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The power of Akarue's work lies in the evocative imagery, which fosters a dialogue between the medium and the viewer. This interaction invites a deeper exploration of distorted perceptions and their impact on the formation of identity.

About Kaima Marie Akarue

Kaima Marie Akarue is the daughter of a Nigerian immigrant and a white mother, which allowed her to exist simultaneously within two vastly different cultures. That genetic melange, coupled with the rich diversity of her hometown of Houston, Texas mimics the duality in her art practice. Through fragmented realities, Kaima uses collage and paintings to discover the social implications of individual and collective identity, inviting the viewer to investigate their perception and navigate through the distortions of dense assemblage and crushed glass. She has showcased nationally in group exhibitions, including the Glendale Library, San Antonio Art League and Museum, and the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. Her work continues to garner attention, winning "Best in Show" and other awards. She is currently working on her MFA in painting at the University of Houston.

Join us at Artspace111 for this exceptional showcase of three talented artists. Experience the power of Benjamin Muñoz's celebration of Chicano culture, delve into the visual poetry of David Wolske's isotype printing, and navigate the complex narratives of Kaima Marie Akarue. Each artist's unique process and perspective make these exhibitions a must-see event.

Artspace111 will be open on Thursday, May 11, 2023, from 5 - 7:30pm. This reception will provide an opportunity for guests and patrons to meet and visit with the artists. The gallery requests that guests RSVP via Eventbrite.

For more information, visit our website at www.artspace111.com or call 817-692-3228.

Artspace111 is located at 111 Hampton Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102. The gallery is open Tuesday through Friday from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Saturday from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

Link to RSVP here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/artspace111-presents-three-new-solo-exhibitions-tickets-625760395187>

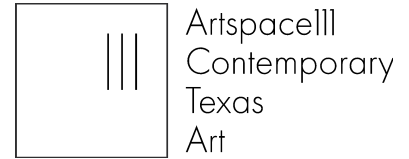
About Artspace111

Located in downtown Fort Worth, Texas, Artspace111 specializes in the exhibition of Contemporary Texas Art. In 1980, twin brothers Daniel and Dennis Blagg established Artspace111, converting a historic 1911 building into artist studios and a small gallery space in order to support and celebrate the work of local artists. In 2007, Margery Gossett and William Grella became the Owner/Directors of

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Artspace111 and further developed the gallery into a celebrated and distinguished 3,000 square foot art gallery. In addition to the year-round schedule of solo and group exhibitions, Artspace111 designs corporate and private art collections for clients throughout the country and hosts special events in its distinctive gallery and sculpture gardens. Artspace111 is dedicated to making contemporary art approachable to individuals of all ages.

Word document without images available.
For additional information or images, email Margery Gossett
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Accompanying artwork image information:

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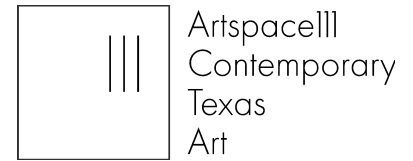
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A Miracle of the Masses, Benjamin Muñoz 2023, Mixed Media, 35x23"

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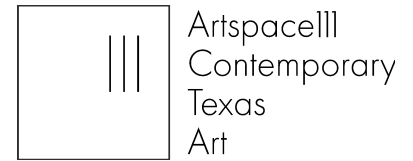
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Ambigram 05, David Wolske, 2023

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I call next, Kaima Marie Akarue, 2023, Acrylic and crushed glass, 40x30"

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