



DANIE CANSINO | THIS IS MY BLOOD
MAY 6 - JUNE 17, 2023

DANIE CANSINO

THIS IS MY BLOOD

Charlie James Gallery is delighted to present our second solo exhibition of paintings and drawings by Los Angeles-based artist Danie Cansino titled *This is My Blood*, opening May 6th at the gallery from 6-9pm.

Danie Cansino's work is a mix of Baroque realism and Chicana aesthetics; where one might expect to find historical or biblical heroes, Cansino inserts her own friends and family. Through a commingling of time periods and the conflation of the spiritual with the real, Cansino builds upon a legacy of Mexican painters and the *realismo magico* that is a part of Mexican spirituality. In her latest solo show *This Is My Blood*, Cansino takes us into the world of magical realism, wherein she installs her friends and colleagues in a Mexica pantheon, subverting the traditions of Western art.

In *This Is My Blood*, Cansino brings to question the subjects of Baroque painting through the deification of her own friends, personal heroes, and community. *This Is My Blood* references the Catholic tradition of the Holy Communion, as well the blood quantum pseudoscience that was foundational to the Spanish caste system which still operates in Latin America today. *This Is My Blood* confronts Cansino's relationship of being both the colonized and the colonizer, mixing traditional Catholic imagery with elements of Indigenous cultural and spiritual traditions. Through the fourteen works in the show, Cansino creates her own personal pantheon of gods and goddesses, including fellow artists such as rafa esparza, Patrick Martinez, and Nao Bustamante, as well as others who have been influential in Cansino's practice like Mike Kelley, Paul McCarthy, and most notably Frida Kahlo.

Danie Cansino (b. 1986, Los Angeles) attended Rio Hondo College shortly after her first apprenticeship for tattooing in 2013. In 2017, Danielle graduated from the Laguna College of Art and Design where she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Drawing and Painting, with an Emphasis in Sculpture. After graduation in 2018, Danielle began tattooing full-time as a resident artist at Mi Familia Tattoo Studio, specializing in color and black and gray realism. In 2021, Cansino completed her Master of Fine Arts degree at the University of Southern California. Cansino's work has been featured in Artforum and ArtNews magazine, she was exhibited in the SUR Biennial, at UCLA, AMOCA, UTA Artists Space, Felix Art Fair, Human Resources Gallery, The Mistake Room, USC Roski, Prjct LA and Charlie James Gallery. Her work resides in the collections of the Rubell Museum and the Xiao Museum of Contemporary Art, in addition to numerous private collections. Danie Cansino is represented by Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles.

-Text by Leah Perez



DANIE CANSINO
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Danie Cansino
Your Truth Will Determine...
A Seat At The Table
Diptych
Oil on wood panel
72 x 192 inches
2023

DANIE CANSINO
THIS IS MY BLOOD



Danie Cansino
Your Truth Will Determine...
A Seat At The Table
(Left Panel)
Diptych
Oil on wood panel
72 x 192 inches
2023

DANIE CANSINO
THIS IS MY BLOOD



Danie Cansino
Your Truth Will Determine...
A Seat At The Table
(Right Panel)
Diptych
Oil on wood panel
72 x 192 inches
2023

DANIE CANSINO THIS IS MY BLOOD

The centerpiece of the exhibition is a 6 x 16-foot diptych painting which depicts Cansino's take on *The Last Supper*, (1495–1498). The left panel, titled *Your Truth Will Determine...* features thirteen male artists and colleagues of Cansino, while the right panel titled *A Seat at The Table* features eleven female artists and curators, including a self-portrait of Cansino herself.

By having two fewer women present than anticipated for a rendition of *The Last Supper*, Cansino seeks to reveal the gender imbalances that exist throughout the art world, in which men make up the majority of artists featured in museums and sold at auction. The right panel stays truer to da Vinci's original, featuring Frida Kahlo as Jesus and La Malinche (born Malintzin) as Judas. While both women are important members of Mexican history, the two had very different life experiences, one perceived as a great artist and the other a traitor. As both Kahlo and Malintzin suffered much through their lives, Cansino also points to the burden of labor, guilt, and shame that women of color must carry in their lives.



DANIE CANSINO
THIS IS MY BLOOD

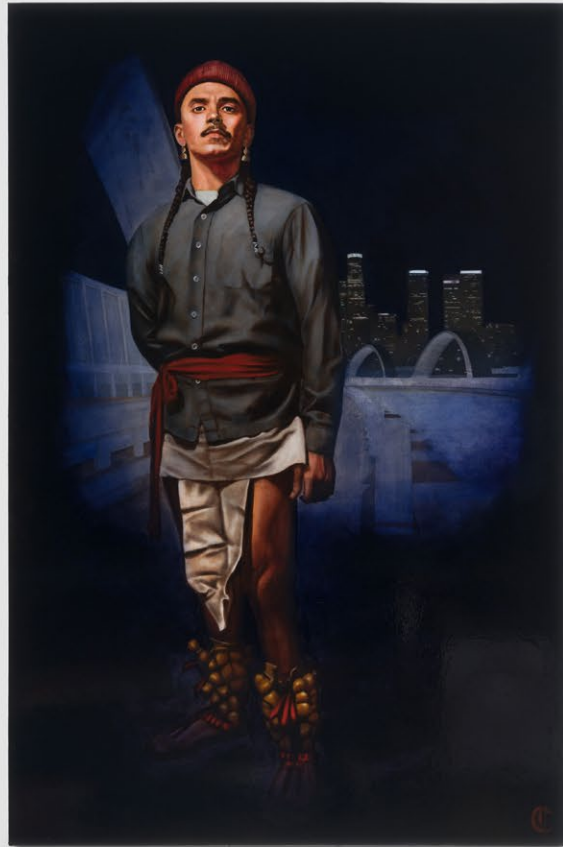


DANIE CANSINO
THIS IS MY BLOOD



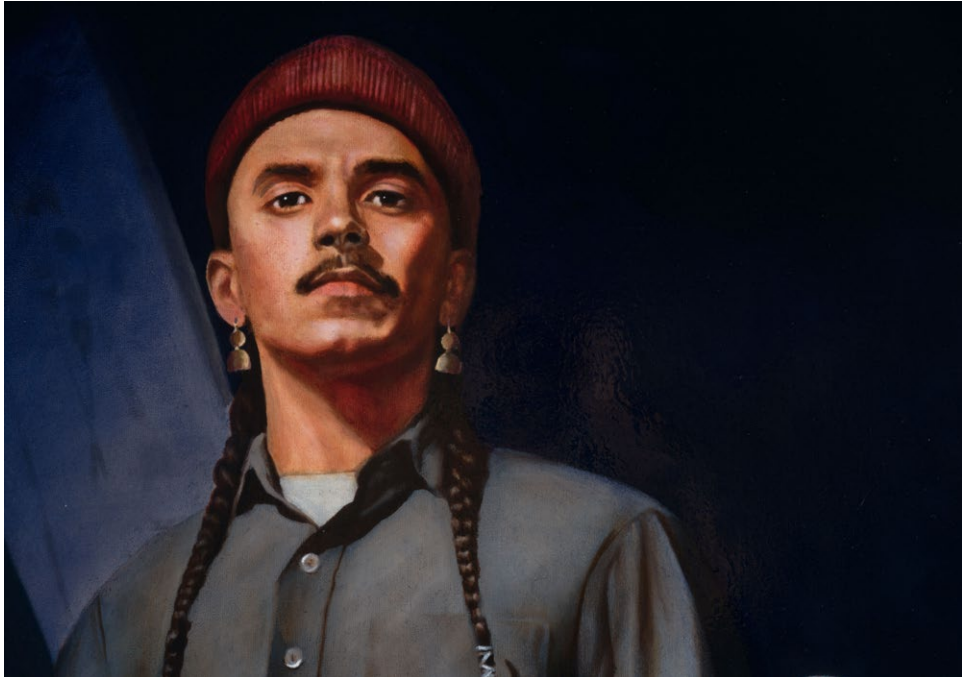
Danie Cansino
Put on Your Red Shoes
Oil on wood panel
72 x 48 inches
2023

DANIE CANSINO
THIS IS MY BLOOD



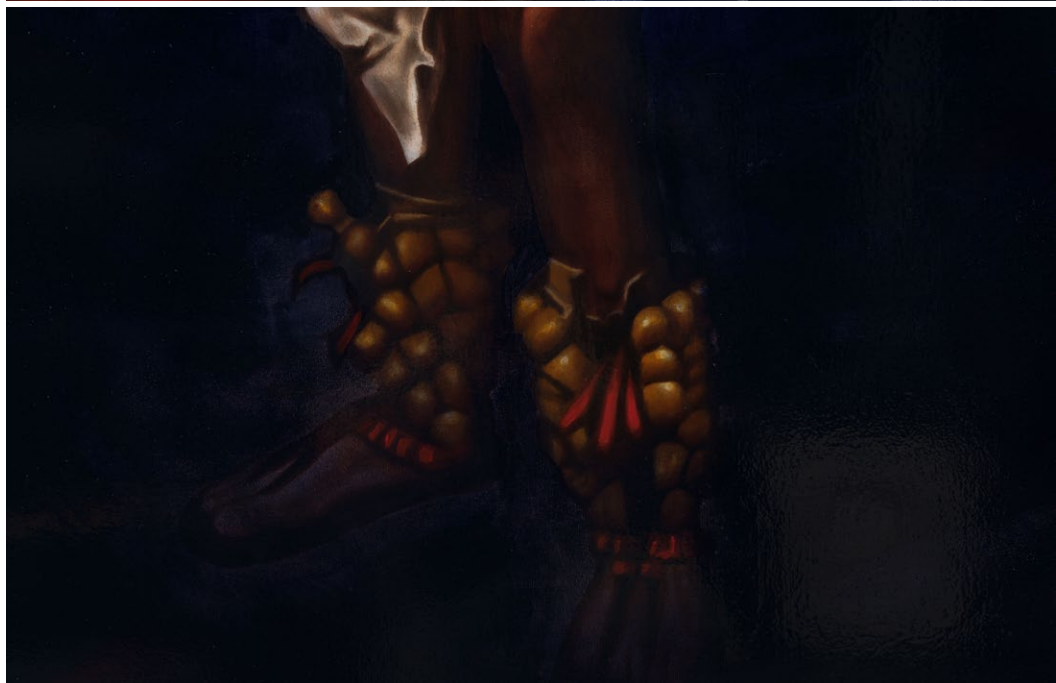
DANIE CANSINO

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A recurring element in Cansino's work is the traversing of different periods of time.

In *Put on Your Red Shoes* Cansino references the traditional dance of danza azteca, a popular Mexican style of dance. Fellow artist and danza azteca performer José Guadalupe Sanchez III is seen wearing both his contemporary clothing as well as the traditional clothes worn for danza azteca, with the 6th Street Bridge visible in the background.



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THIS IS MY BLOOD



Danie Cansino
Jarabe Tapatío
Oil on wood panel
96 x 72 inches
2023

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THIS IS MY BLOOD



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In *Jarabe Tapatío*, Cansino references the traditional dance of folklórico, another popular Mexican style of dance. In *Jarabe Tapatío*, Cansino queers the tradition of folklórico dancing, showcasing two women in a romantic pose. The tradition of folklórico dancing is a very gendered one, in which men and women have distinctly different dance steps, as well as dances that are strictly women or men only. However, these days it is becoming more common for there to be queer folklórico and mariachi groups.



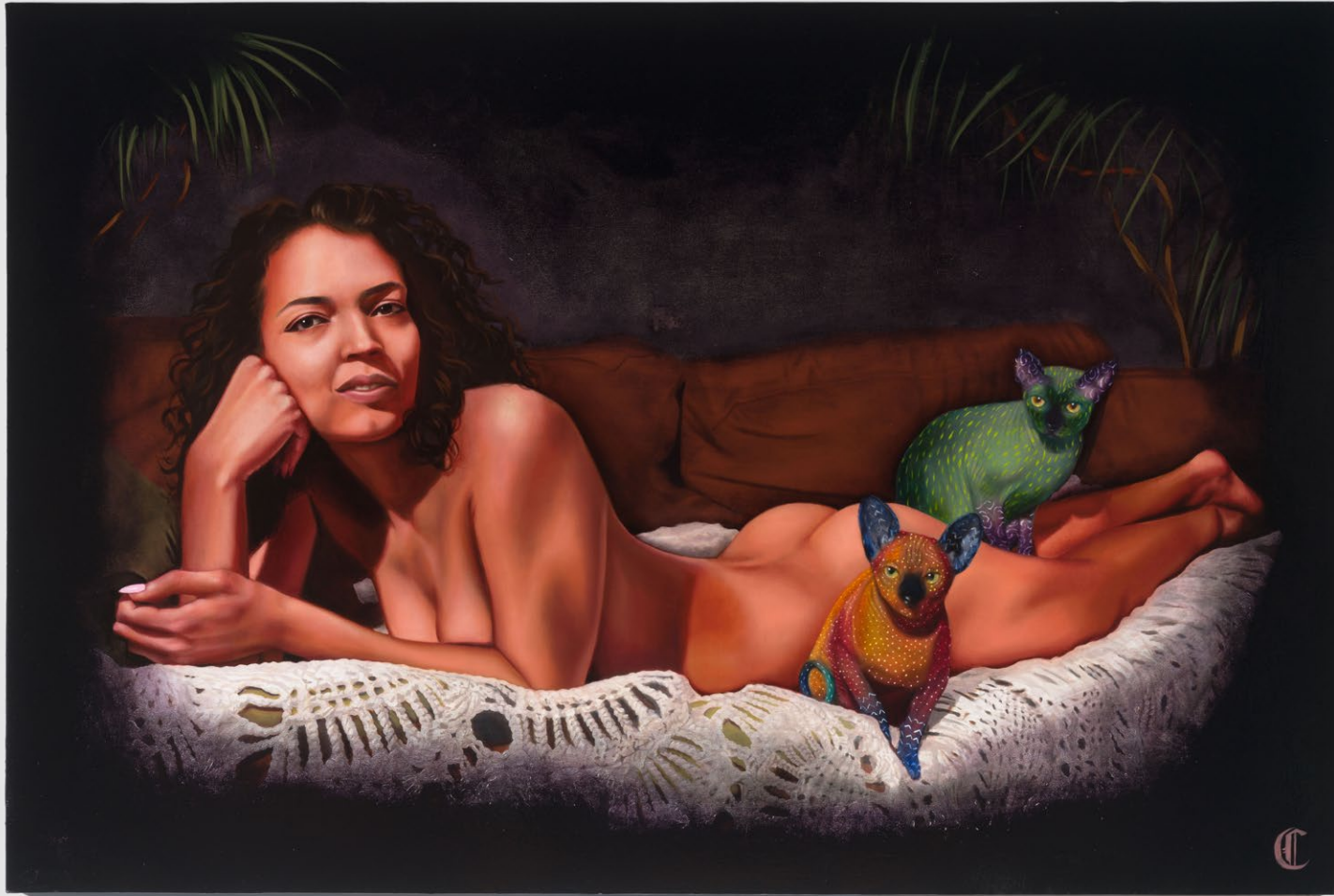
DANIE CANSINO
THIS IS MY BLOOD



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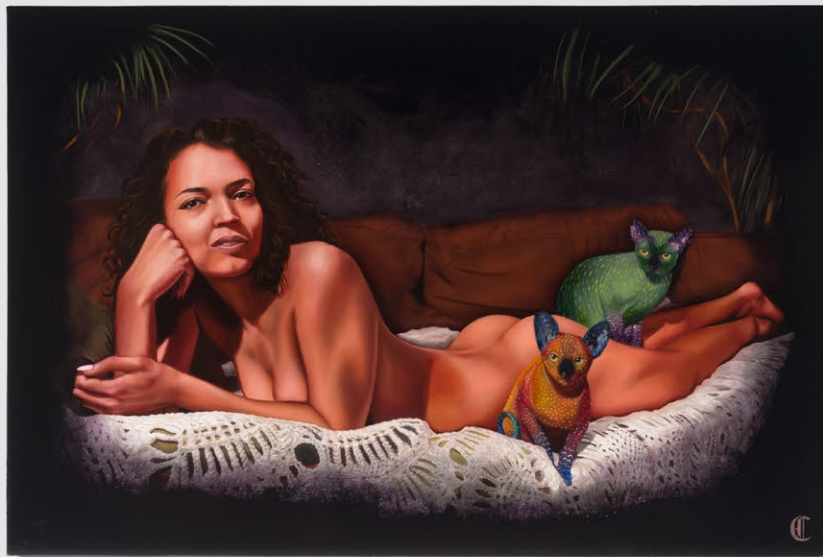


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THIS IS MY BLOOD



Danie Cansino
Jessica (As Olympia)
Oil on wood panel
48 x 72 inches
2023

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Several paintings in the show reference traditional catholic and Western subject matter.

In a painting titled *Jessica (As Olympia)*, Cansino imagines fellow Los Angeles-based painter Jessica Bellamy as Manet's *Olympia* alongside her two sphynx cats depicted as mythical Mexican creatures known as *alebrijes*.



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Danie Cansino
Tres Gracias (The three Graces)
Oil on wood panel
48 x 36 inches
2023

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In *Tres Gracias (Three Graces)* Cansino reimagines Peter Paul Rubens's *The Three Graces* populated with her friends Ever, Lolbette, and Kali-Victoria who are painted holding the tools of their respective arts, except for Ever who wears white, vital to her practice as a crowned daughter of Obatalá & Oshun and curandera lineage.



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In *Flesh and Blood*, Cansino paints the hands of herself and a friend playing dominoes atop two separate serapes, their two hands nearly touching in a pose suggestive of Michelangelo's *The Creation of Adam* (1508-1502).



Danie Cansino
Flesh and Blood
Diptych
Oil on serape mounted on wood panel
36 x 84 inches
2023

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Danie Cansino
Flesh and Blood (Left Panel)
Dptych
Oil on serape mounted
on wood panel
36 x 84 inches
2023

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Danie Cansino
Flesh and Blood (Right Panel)
Diptych
Oil on serape mounted
on wood panel
36 x 84 inches
2023

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Danie Cansino
Popocatépetl and Iztaccíhuatl
(star-crossed lovers)
Oil on wood panel
96 x 72 inches
2023

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Through her reimagining of both Western and Indigenous traditions, Cansino subverts a number of tropes present throughout the history of art and the Latinx culture of machismo.

In one painting entitled *Popcatépetl and Iztaccihuatl (star-crossed lovers)*, Cansino reimagines the Mexican myth of Popcatépetl and Iztaccihuatl as fellow artists rafa esparza and Maria Maea. The story of Popcatépetl and Iztaccihuatl was created to serve as an explanation of why two volcanoes in Mexico resemble two lovers. The two lovers were of different classes and therefore their love was forbidden. Generally suggestive of Romeo and Juliet, Iztaccihuatl was told that Popcatépetl died in battle, which caused Iztaccihuatl to die of grief. Popcatépetl then took her body to the volcano which shares their namesake and they have been in that same position ever since.



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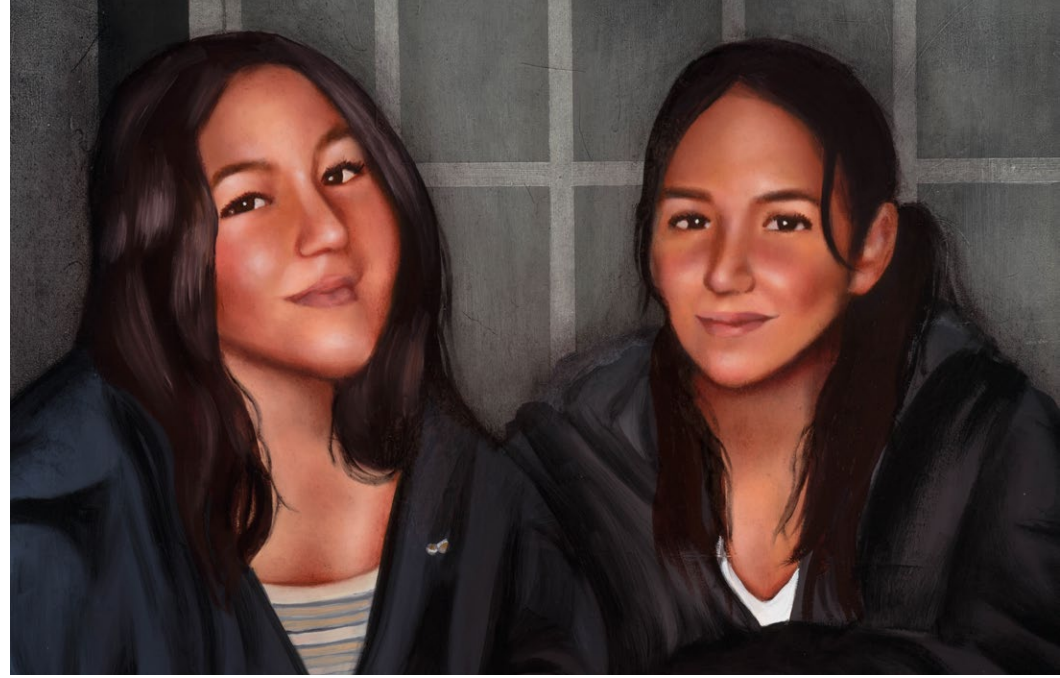
Danie Cansino
This Is My Blood
Oil on wood panel
72 x 48 inches
2023

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As a tattoo artist, much of Cansino's work references the street culture of Chicana communities on the eastside of Los Angeles.

In the painting titled *This is My Blood*, Cansino paints a photo taken of herself with her closest childhood friend Andrea on the porch of her Montebello home, both proudly wearing their first name brand sneakers purchased earlier in the day.



DANIE CANSINO
THIS IS MY BLOOD



Danie Cansino
Palm Views
Oil on wood panel
48 x 36 inches
2023

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In *Palm Views*, Cansino paints a landscape scene from the vantage of her current residence in East LA with sunset and palm trees in the background.



DANIE CANSINO
THIS IS MY BLOOD



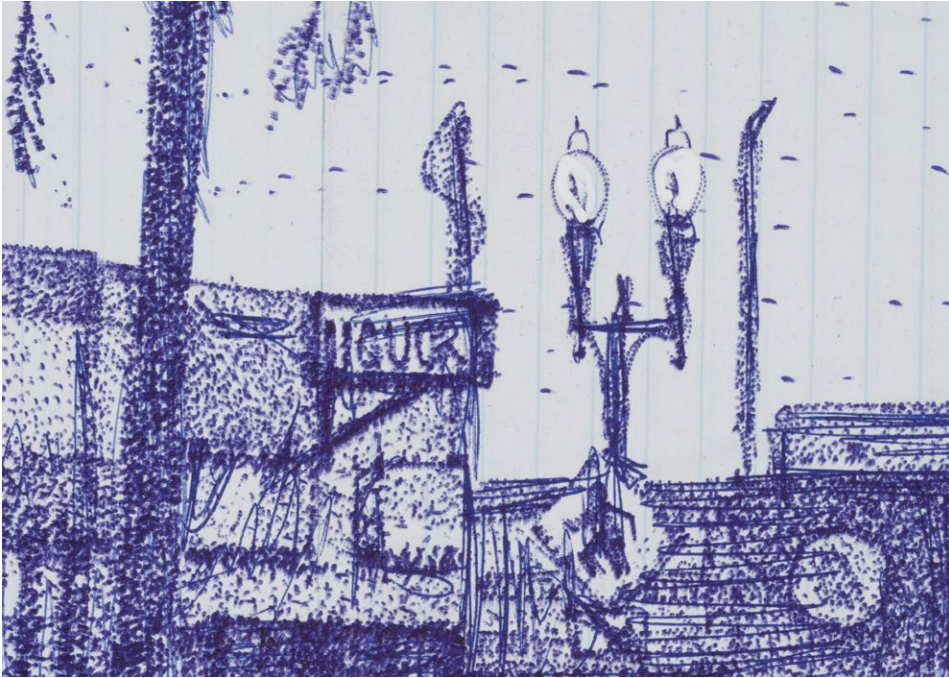
Danie Cansino
Whittier Boulevard
Tattooed ballpoint pen
on paper on wood panel
48 x 36 inches
2023

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THIS IS MY BLOOD

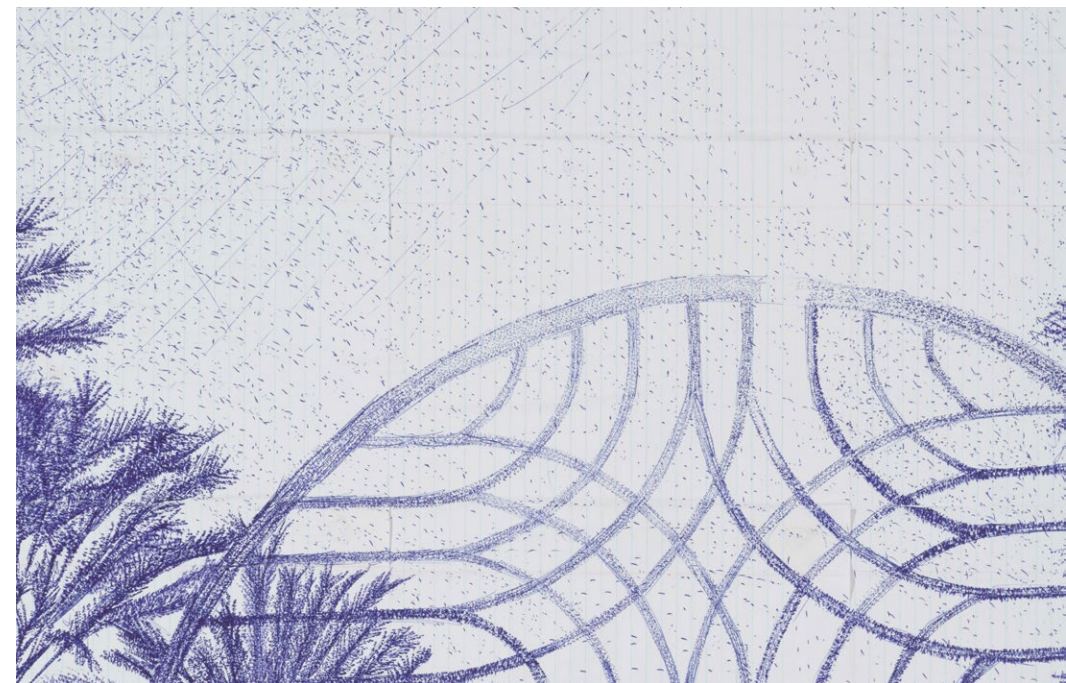


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In the ballpoint drawing *Whittier Boulevard*, Cansino pays homage to her tattooing background. Using a blue ballpoint pen instead of a needle, Cansino uses tattooing techniques to draw the iconic sign over Whittier Boulevard in East Los Angeles.



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Danie Cansino
Temporary Love
Ballpoint pen and white-out on
paper on wood panel
36 x 24 inches
2023



Danie Cansino
Temporary Love
Archival Pigment Print
on Canson Rag
Photographique 310gsm
Image: 15 x 22.5 inches
Paper: 18 x 26 inches
Edition of 20
2023
Unframed

Signed and numbered
by the artist
Printed by Technikal Support
LLC, Heyward Hart in Los
Angeles, California

Available at
shop.cjamesgallery.com

DANIE CANSINO

CV

Danie Cansino

Lives and works in Los Angeles

Education

- 2019-2021 University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
Master of Fine Arts - Art
- 2015-2017 Laguna College Of Art and Design (LCAD), Laguna Beach, CA
Bachelor of Fine Arts- Drawing and Painting - emphasis in Sculpture
- 2012-2014 Rio Hondo College, Whittier, CA
Fine Arts - Drawing and Painting, Ceramics
- 2004-2007 Cal State University, Long Beach, CA
English- Creative Writing

Solo Exhibitions

- 2023 This Is My Blood, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2022 Después, Rio Hondo Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2022 I'm Starting to Forget, Charlie James Gallery Los Angeles, CA
- 2021 ART FORUM, MFA Spotlight, Online Exhibition New York, New York

Group Exhibitions/Projects

- 2023 Black and Blue Fantasy, Dream Child, Los Angeles, CA
- 2023 Felix Art Fair, Charlie James Gallery Hollywood, CA
- 2022 Suenx, The Mistake Room, Los Angeles, CA
- 2022 Southland, Vol.2, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2022 Rostro, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2022 Out of Step, Out of Line, Long Beach Museum of Art
- 2021 Corporeality, PRJCT LA Art Space Los Angeles, CA
- 2021 Descifrando Terrenos, UCLA New Wight Gallery Los Angeles, CA
- 2021 Ni de aqui, Ni de alla, Charlie James Gallery Los Angeles, CA
- 2021 Felix Art Fair, Charlie James Gallery Hollywood, CA
- 2021 In Cahoots, OVR, UTA Artists Space Beverly Hills, CA
- 2021 La Frontera, A New Latinx Lexicon- Humble Arts Foundation

- Los Angeles, CA
- 2020 MFA Group Exhibition, University of Southern California (USC) Los Angeles, CA
- 2019 SUR Biennial, Rio Hondo Community College Whittier, CA
- 2017 LCAD BFA Fine Arts Exhibition, Orange County Great Park Irvine, CA
- 2016 Cove Gallery Laguna Beach, CA
- 2014 Student and Faculty Exhibition- American Museum of Ceramic Art Pomona, CA
- 2012-2014 Visual Syntax Output, Chronos Gallery Los Angeles, CA
- 2013 Doha Film Institute Doha, Qatar
- 2013 Casita Del Pueblo Art Gallery Whittier, CA

Selected Talks/ Lectures

- 2021 10 Latinx Artists Who Challenge the Culture- Glendale Community College Glendale, CA
- 2021 Descifrando Terranos: Zoom Panel Discussion- UCLA MFA Los Angeles, CA

Selected Published Works

- 2022 ARTnews, Maximilano Duron 2021 Hyperallergic
- 2021 ARTFORUM
- 2021 X-tra
- 2021 USC Public Archives
- 2016 "DAMMN BABY" JANET JACKSON (2016) Official Music Video - Dancers, Makeup/visual Artist
- 2016 "NO" MEGHAN TRAINOR (2016) Official Music Video - Dancers, Makeup/visual Artist
- 2016 "BLACKER THE BERRY/ALRIGHT" KENDRICK LAMAR (2016) 58th Annual Grammy Awards - Dancers and Performers, Makeup Artist/ body painting/ Visual Artist

Awards

- 2021 MFA Teaching Assistant Fellowship Award- USC Los Angeles, CA
- 2019-Present MFA honors Dean's List - USC, Los Angeles, CA

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CV

2017 BFA Honors, Magna Cum Laude

2015-2017 LCAD Merit Scholarship- LCAD, Laguna Beach, CA

2015-2017 Dean's List- LCAD, Laguna Beach, CA

2016 Plotkin Award Scholarship- Peter and Marsha Plotkin
Foundation, Lake Forest, CA

2015 1st Place- Student Juried Exhibition- LCAD, Laguna Beach, CA

Selected Collections

Rubell Museum – 2022

Xiao Museum of Contemporary Art – 2022