

NARSISO MARTINEZ
SUPERFRESH



CJG CHARLIE JAMES GALLERY
CHINATOWN, LOS ANGELES

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Charlie James Gallery is delighted to present *Superfresh*, the first solo exhibition at the gallery by Long Beach-based artist **Narsiso Martinez**, opening Saturday, March 21st and running through July 5th, 2020.

Narsiso Martinez's drawings and mixed media installations include individual portraits and multi-figure compositions of farm laborers set against the agricultural landscapes and brand designs of grocery store produce boxes. Drawn from his own experience as a farm worker, Martinez's work focuses on the people performing the labors necessary to fill produce sections and restaurant kitchens around the country. Martinez's portraits of farm workers are drawn on discarded produce boxes collected from grocery stores. In a style informed by inter-war Social Realism and its antecedent European Realism, Martinez makes visible the difficult labor and onerous working conditions of the American farm worker. For *Superfresh*, Martinez will present a new series of paintings, drawings and sculptures executed across a range of sizes - from intimate personal portraits to large-scale scenes of workers reminiscent of scenes from Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*. Additionally, resulting from his ongoing residency at the Long Beach City College Ceramic Studio, Martinez will also present his first ceramic tile mural titled *Philosophy in the Fields*, which will explore farm workers' contribution to the American economy.

Narsiso Martinez (b. 1977, Oaxaca, Mexico) migrated to the United States when he was 20 years old. He attended Evans Community Adult School and completed high school in 2006 at the age of 29. To finance his education, Martinez worked seasonally in the apple orchards of Eastern Washington for nine years. He earned an Associate of Arts degree in 2009 from Los Angeles City College. In the fall of 2012 Narsiso earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts from California State University Long Beach. In the spring of 2018 he received a Master of Fine Arts degree in drawing and painting from California State University Long Beach, and was awarded the prestigious Dedalus Foundation MFA Fellowship in Painting and Sculpture. His work has been exhibited both locally and internationally. Martinez lives and works in Long Beach, CA.

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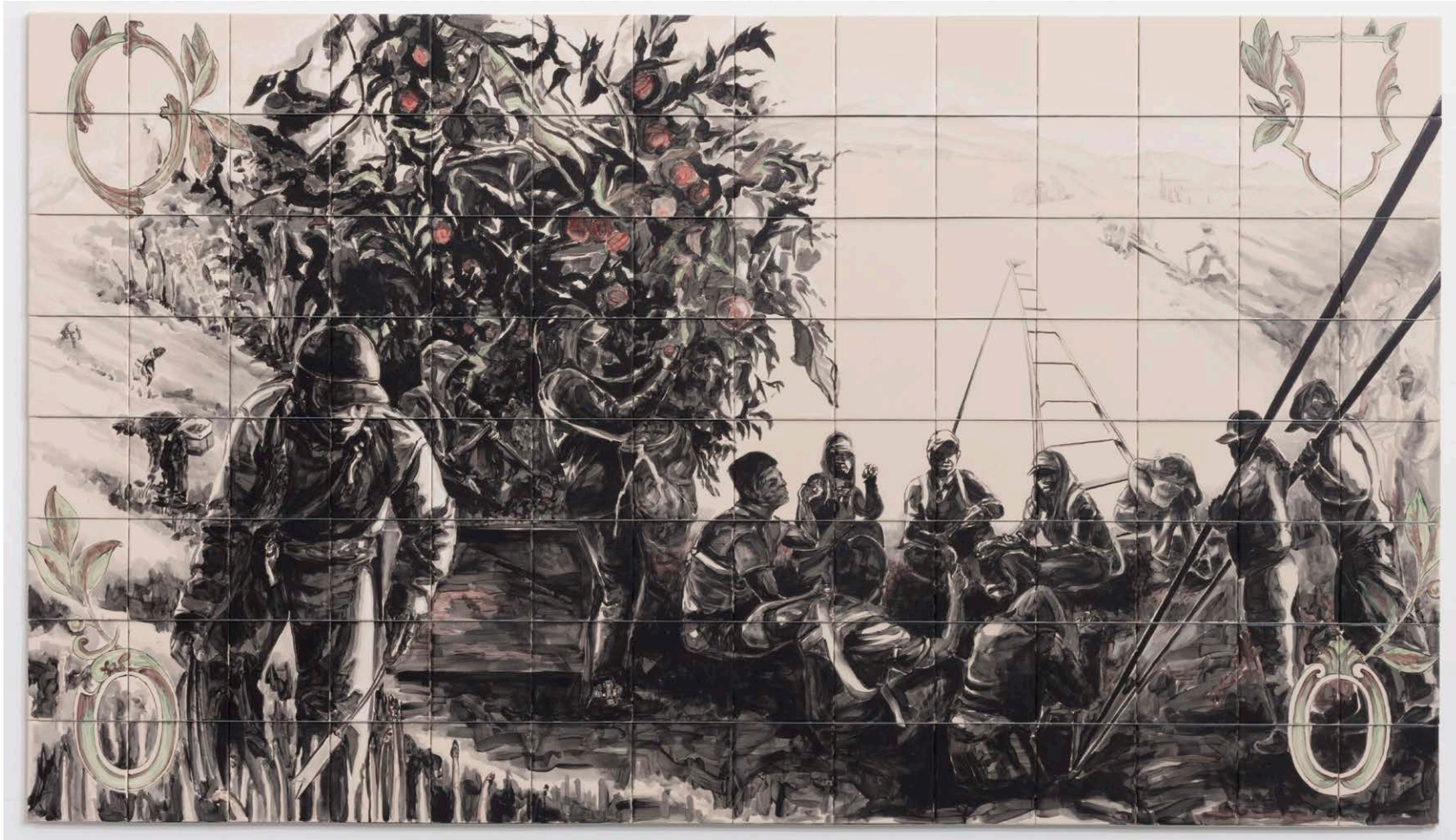
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Philosophy in the Fields
Ceramic tiles with glazes
48 x 84 inches
2020

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Super Fresh
Ink, Gouache, Charcoal, and Collage
on Found Produce Boxes
84 x 133 inches
2020

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The Weed Sprayer
Ink, Gouache, and Charcoal
on found produce box
82 x 56 inches
2020

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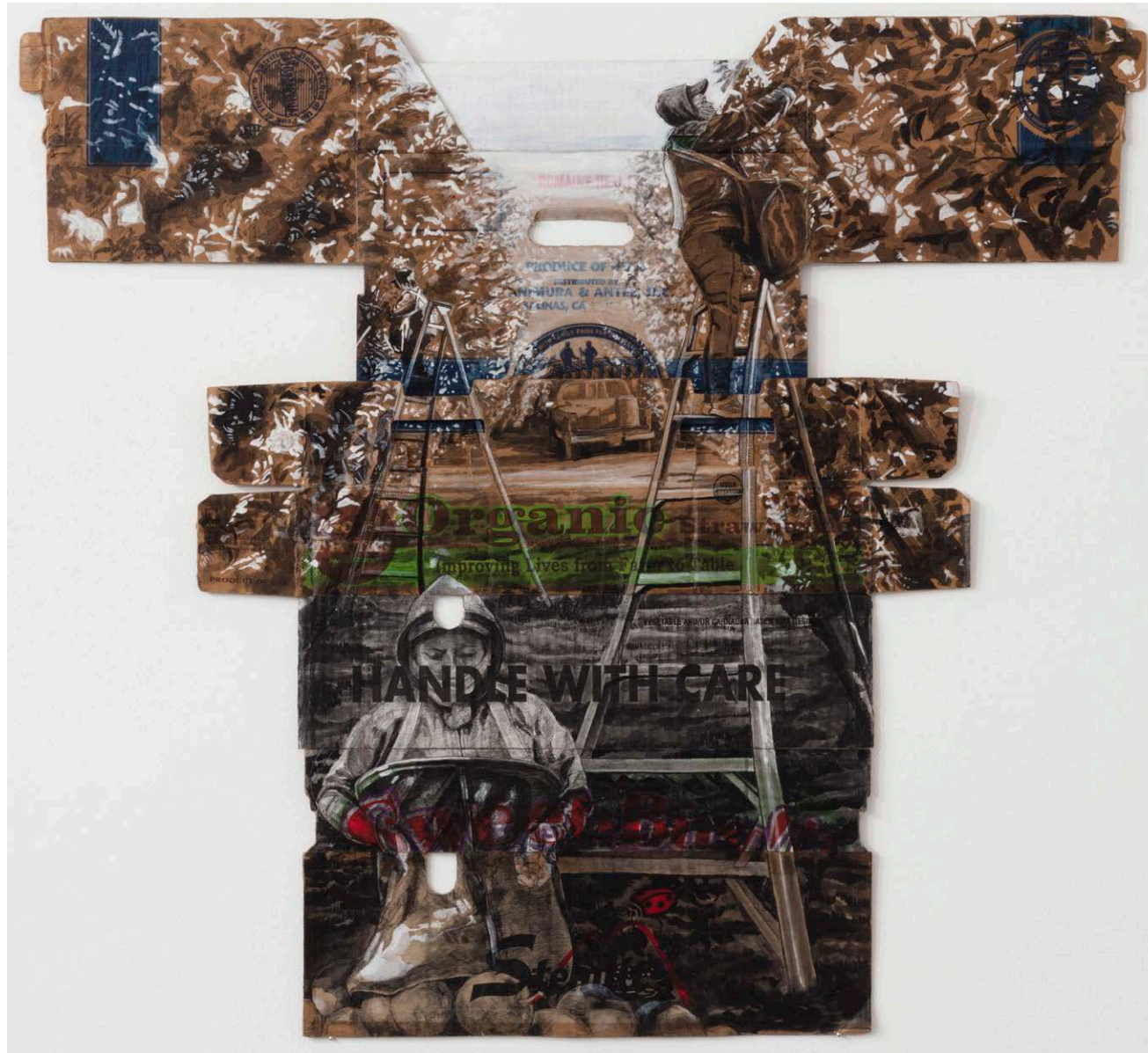
Green Organic
Ink, gouache, charcoal,
and collage on found
produce box
34 x 30 inches
2020

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Two Apples
Ink, gouache and charcoal
on found produce box
19.5 x 19.5 inches
2020

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With Care
Ink, Gouache, Charcoal
and Matte Gel on
Found Produce Box
35 x 38 inches
2020

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No Stranger
Ink, Charcoal, Gouache,
and Matte Gel on Found
Produce Box
51.5 x 38 inches
2019

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Orchard View
Ink, Gouache, and
Charcoal on Found
Produce Box
21.75 x 29 inches
2020

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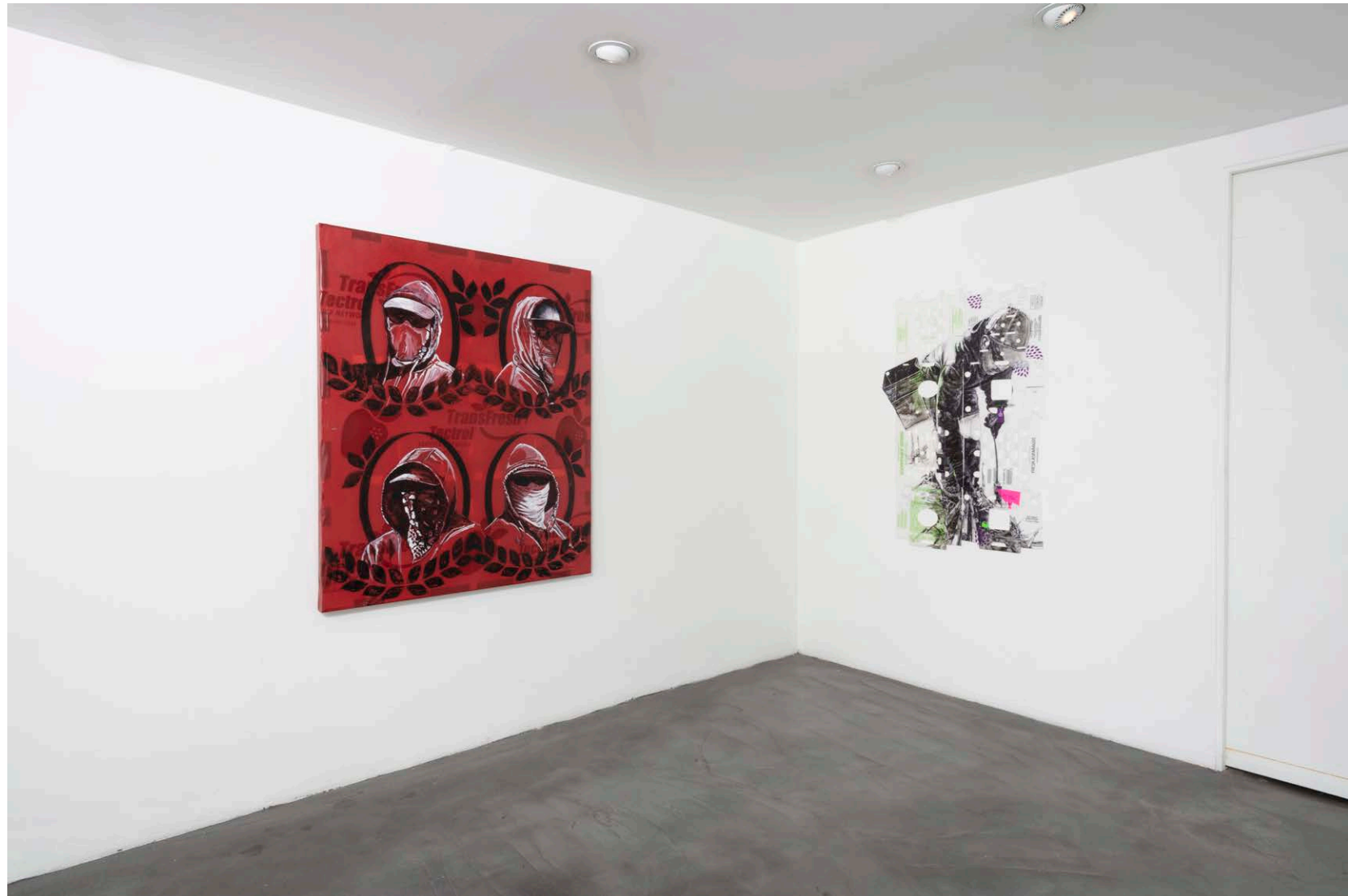
Good Farms
Ink, Gouache, Charcoal
and Matte Gel
on Found Produce Box
20.75 x 19.75 inches
2020

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Magic Harvest
Ink, Charcoal, and
Gouache on Found Produce
Boxes
71 x 23.5 x 16 inches
2019

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Self-Portrait En La
Cherry (with Strawberry
Fields Forever in the
Background)
Ink, Charcoal, Gouache
and Matte Gel on Produce
Cardboard boxes
53 x 72 inches
2020

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Fresh Cut (The Beginning
of a New Day)
Ink, Gouache, and Sharpie
on Plastic Asparagus box
45.5 x 29.5 inches
2020

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Golden Pickers
Diptych
Charcoal and Gold Leaf
on Found Produce Boxes
15.5 x 10 x 3 inches/each
2020

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The Brave 1, 2, 3
Charcoal and Produce Label
Collage on Linen
20 x 20 inches / each
2020

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Fallen Berries
Ink and Gouache on
Found Printed Plastic
48 x 40 inches
2020

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Golden Berries
Lino-cut and Gold Leaf
on Found Produce Box
19.5 x 27.25 inches
2020

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In The Fresh
Ink, Gouache,
Charcoal and Matte
Gel on Found Produce
Box
29.75 x 42.25 inches
2020

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Golden Quality
Charcoal and Gold Leaf
on Found Produce Box
12 x 9 inches
2020

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The Harvester
Charcoal and Gold Leaf
on Found Produce Box
16 x 13.5 x 5 inches
2020

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Eat Fresh
Ink, Gouache, and Charcoal
on Apple Protective Cushion
12 x 19 inches
2019

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Picking Cerezas
Ink Pen on Paper
Sheet: 14 x 11 inches
Framed
2020

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Unnumbered Portrait V
(Car Sol)
Lino-Cut Print, White Ink
Pen and Matte Gel on Found
Produce Box
30 x 21.25 inches
2016-2017

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Education

2018 MFA, California State University Long Beach.
2012 BFA, California State University Long Beach.
2009 AA, Los Angeles City College.

Solo Exhibitions

2020 Superfresh, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2019 Los Farmworkers, Visual Arts Building At the Orange County Fair, Costa Mesa, CA
2019 Reclaimed Agriculture, SCC Art Gallery, Santiago Canyon College, Orange County, CA
2018 Farm Fresh, Long Beach Museum of Art, Long Beach CA
2018 The Harvest, Center for Culture and Cinematic Arts, Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles, CA
2018 The Harvest, E. Gatov Gallery at Cal State Long Beach, Long Beach, CA
2013 Labor of Love, Dutzi Gallery at Cal State Long Beach, Long Beach, CA

Group Exhibitions

2019 Arrivals, TAG Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
On Their Backs, Fellows of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA
2019 Ganas de Existir, Angels Gate Art Center, San Pedro, CA
2019 A Feminine Perspective, The Montalban Theater, Hollywood, CA
2019 There's no End to Her, ACE/121 Art Gallery, Glendale, CA
2019 Protest, Noun, Torrance Art Museum, Torrance, CA
2018 Why I Paint, Realti Art Space, Daegu, South Korea
2018 The Embodiment of Inclusivity, Xiem Clay Canter, Pasadena, CA
2018 Praxis, LBMAX, Long Beach CA
2018 New Impressions National Printmaking Competition, Sawtooth's Davids Gallery, Winston-Salem, NC
2018 Immigration 101, Avenue 50 Studio, Highland Park, CA
2018 Painting the Night, Midnight Gallery, Long Beach, CA
2018 Visual Resistance, Fullerton College Art Gallery, Fullerton, CA
2017 Into the Now Figurative, Flatline Art Gallery, Long Beach,

CA
2017 Farm to Table, Brainworks Galley, Los Angeles, CA
2017 PUMP, Public Urban Multisensory Presentations, The Packard by Millworks. Long Beach, CA
2017 Here/There PST LA/LA, FM Fine ART Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2017 Borders, Angel City Brewery, Los Angeles CA
2017 Postura, PST LA/LA/SUR Biennial, Whittier Historic Museum, Whittier, CA
2017 Spacial Recognition, Finishing Concepts, Monterey Park, CA
2017 Cross Town Traffic, Manhattan Beach Art Center, Manhattan Beach, CA
2017 Sustainability Show Case, Earls Burns Miller Japanese Garden at California State University Long Beach, Long Beach CA
2017 Defend and Advance, National Immigration Law Center, Los Angeles, CA
2017 Verge 2017, South Bay Contemporary, San Pedro, CA
2017 Insights 2017, University Art Museum, Long Beach, CA
2017 State of the Union, Brainworks Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2017 Far Bazar, Cerritos College, Cerritos, CA
2017 Dear President, South Bay Contemporary, San Pedro, CA
2016 Arcadias, Werby Gallery, Cal State Long Beach, Long Beach, CA
2016 Tracing Tomorrow, Collective Arts Incubator, Highland Park CA
2016 Final Mass Attack, Torrance Art Museum, Torrance CA
2016 System and Process, Angel City Brewery, Los Angeles, CA
2016 S/Election, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2016 Contemporary Prints, Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge, LA
2016 Now Trending, Palos Verdes Art Center, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
2015 Insights 2015, University Art Museum, Long Beach CA
2014 Getting Off The Ground, Angels Gate Cultural Center, San Pedro, CA
2013 California Dreamers, Gatov West gallery at Cal State Long Beach, Long Beach, CA
2012, Insights 2012, University Art Museum, Long Beach CA
2012 Californians, Art Space Purl art gallery, Daegu, South Korea

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Prizes and Awards

- 2019 Stanley Hollander Award
- 2018 Graduate Achievement Award
- 2018 1st Place Graduate Speedball New Impressions National Printmaking Competition.

Residencies and Fellowships

- 2019 May Artist in Residence at the Fountainhead Miami, FL.
- 2019 Rema Hort Mann Foundation Emerging Artists in LA
- 2018 Dedalus Foundation MFA Fellowship in Painting and Sculpture.
- 2018 Artist in Resident Long Beach Museum of Art, Long Beach CA
- 2018 Artist in Resident Long Beach City college, Long Beach, CA
- 2017 Artist in Resident Long Beach Museum of Art, Long Beach, CA

Articles and Publications

2019 Farmworkers Come to Life Through O.C. Fair's Featured Artist
<https://www.latimes.com/socal/daily-pilot/news/tn-dpt-me-oc-fair-featured-artist-20190715-story.html>

2018 Oaxaca-born Artist Paints Life in the Fields in First Solo Exhibition at Long Beach Museum.
<https://lbpost.com/life/arts-culture/narsiso-martinez-farm-fresh/>

2018 Farm Fresh - Narsiso Martinez - Short Doc, 2018.
<https://vimeo.com/292444440>

2018 The Personal and Political Landscapes of Narsiso Martinez.
<https://artillerymag.com/the-personal-and-political-landscapes-of-narsiso-martinez/>

2018 Oaxacan Artist Draws on Personal Experience to Depict Farmworkers
<https://dailytrojan.com/2018/08/30/oaxacan-artist-draws-on-personal-experience-to-depict-farmworkers/>

2017 Narsiso Martinez.
<http://thisisfabrik.com/narsiso-martinez/>

2017 Ep.10 Narsiso Martinez.
<http://arttraffic.libsyn.com/ep-10-narsiso-martinez>

2017 CSULB Webpage, Artist Draws Inspiration From the Fields.
<http://www.csulb.edu/article/csulb-artist-draws-inspiration-fields>

2016 Daily 49er, CSULB Artist Paints a Social and Political Message. <http://www.daily49er.com/artslife/2016/11/02/csulb-artist-paints-a-social-and-political-message/>