

NARSISO MARTINEZ  
TENDER LEAVES



**CJG** CHARLIE JAMES GALLERY  
CHINATOWN, LOS ANGELES

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# NARSISO MARTINEZ

## TENDER LEAVES

Charlie James Gallery is pleased to present our second solo show of Long Beach-based artist **Narsiso Martinez** titled *Tender Leaves*, opening December 11th at the gallery's new second space at 961 Chung King Road from 6-9pm.

Narsiso Martinez's work originates from his lived experience as an immigrant and a farmworker. His work is in dialogue with European Realist painters like Jean-Francois Millet and 1930s-era Social Realism, in particular the Mexican muralist movement. Martinez uses drawing, painting and sculpture to depict portraits and scenes of American farmworkers at work in the fields. His works are frequently executed on the surfaces of discarded produce boxes that Martinez retrieves from various markets around Long Beach and Los Angeles.

In *Tender Leaves*, Martinez will exhibit a new series of farmworker portraits amplified by his most ambitious sculptural piece to date and an installation in the rear gallery of the space that recalls in style and material the works of Kara Walker. A tone of increasing concern runs through the works in the show for the state of constant precarity farmworkers live under in America. Martinez brings the dialogue closer to the viewer / consumer in this show, with his series of citrus worker portraits executed on deconstructed Trader Joe's orange juice boxes. Larger scale portraits in the show exude detectable elements of fear and alarm in the eyes of the subjects. Other figures beckon warmly, openly, suggestive of the immeasurable contributions made by American farmworkers. The works in *Tender Leaves* seek to valorize the farmworkers that fill grocery store produce sections around the country, and also to decry their systemic and comprehensive vulnerability.

**Narsiso Martinez** (b. 1977, Oaxaca, Mexico) came 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. 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. Martinez funded his BFA and MFA education by working nine seasons in the fields of Eastern Washington. 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's work resides in the permanent collections of the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, the Amon Carter Museum of American Art in Fort Worth, TX, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento, CA, the Long Beach Museum of Art, the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at the University of Oregon, and Compound in Long Beach, CA. Martinez lives and works in Long Beach, CA and is represented by Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles.

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Pacific Gold  
Ink, Gouache, charcoal, collage,  
acrylics, and small paintings  
on produce boxes  
82 x 40 x 48 inches  
2021

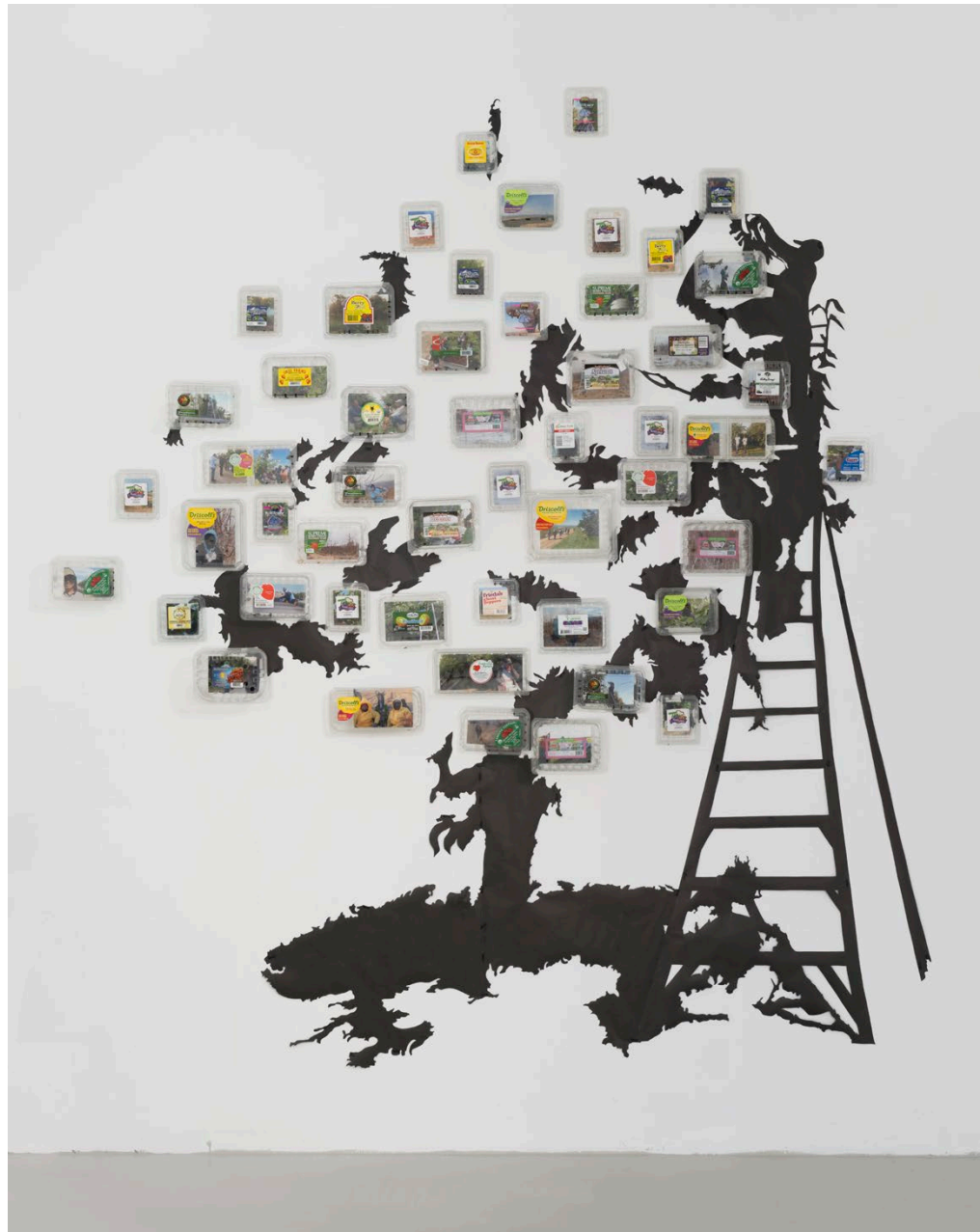
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82 x 40 x 48 inches  
2021



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Tree of Life  
Installation  
Mixed Media  
100 x 95 inches  
2021

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Tree of Life  
Installation  
Details

# NARSISO MARTINEZ TENDER LEAVES



Banana Man  
Ink, Gouache, charcoal,  
and collage on produce  
cardboard boxes  
93.5 x 72 inches  
2021

# NARSISO MARTINEZ TENDER LEAVES



Tender Leaves  
Ink, charcoal, and  
gold leaf on produce  
cardboard box  
52.50 x 62.50 Inches  
2021

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The Dreamers  
Charcoal on linen  
Triptych  
28 x 24 inches/each  
2021

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Selfie with the Homies  
Ink, gouache, and charcoal  
on produce cardboard box  
40 x 39 inches  
2021

# NARSISO MARTINEZ TENDER LEAVES



Too Cool  
Gouache, acrylic, and  
charcoal on produce  
plasticboard boxes  
41.25 x 32.50 inches  
2021

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USA Product  
Gouache, Charcoal,  
Collage, and Matte  
Medium on Cherry Box  
35 x 28.25 Inches  
2021



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To a Brighter Future  
Ink, gouache, charcoal,  
and gold leaf on produce  
cardboard box  
24 x 30.75 inches  
2021

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Sun Fed  
Ink, Gouache, and charcoal  
on produce cardboard  
16 x 31.25 inches  
2021

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Paula  
Ink, Gouache, charcoal,  
and acrylic on produce cardboard  
16 x 27.75 inches  
2021

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**Fruit Catcher**  
Ink, charcoal and  
gold leaf on produce  
cardboard box  
20 x 15.50 inches  
2021

# NARSISO MARTINEZ TENDER LEAVES



Juicy Crop  
Ink, charcoal, and  
collage on juice carton  
11.75 x 16.25 inches  
2021

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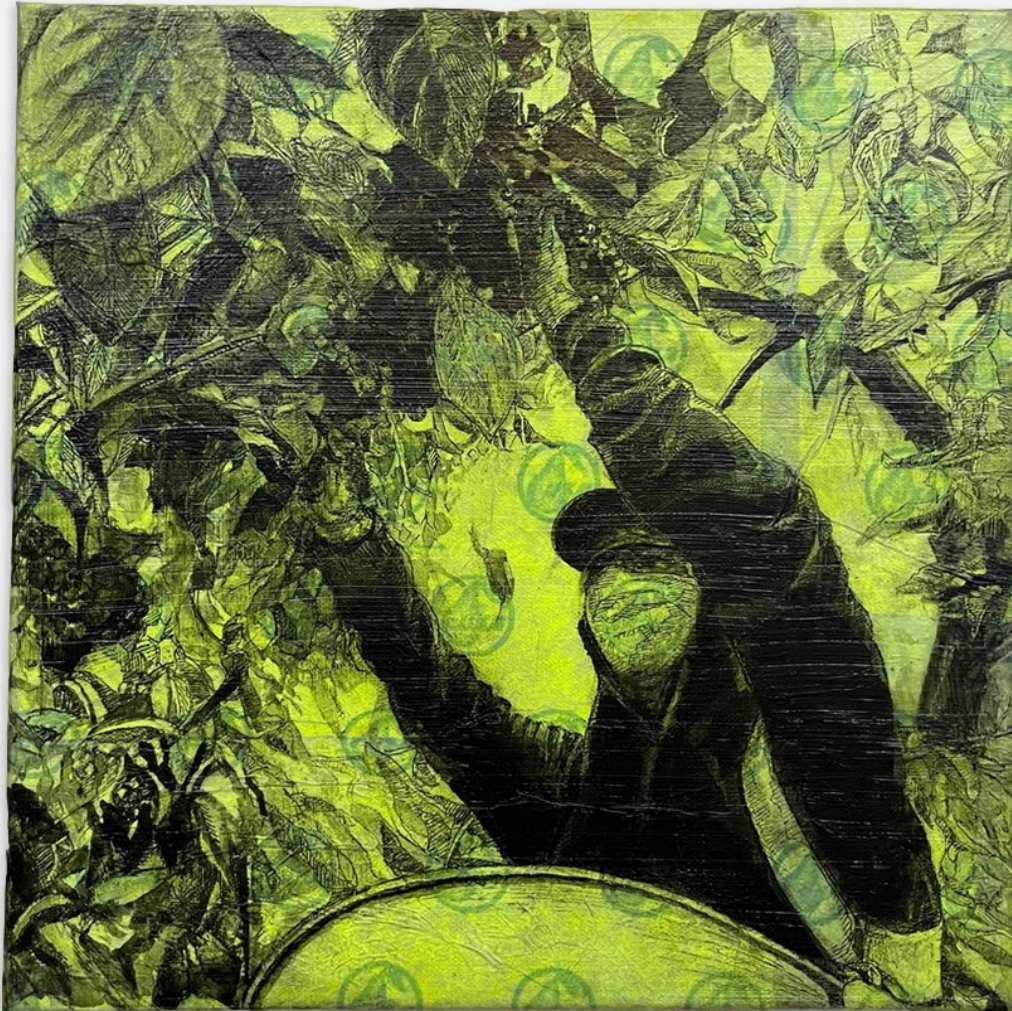
Golden Crop  
Ink, gouache, charcoal,  
and acrylics on juice  
carton  
11.75 x 15.25 inches  
2021

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Good Morning  
Ink, gouache, sticker  
and charcoal on juice  
carton  
10.50 x 14 inches  
2021

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Sunday Pick  
Ink, and charcoal  
on fruit wrapping  
paper, mounted on  
canvas  
12 x 12 inches  
2021



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Winter Clean  
Ink pen on fruit wrapping  
paper, mounted on canvas  
11.75 x 9.50 inches  
2021

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Untitled One  
(Collaboration with Gerardo Monterrubio)  
Underglazes on Ceramic Vase  
Approx. 22 x 16 x 16 Inches  
2018

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Untitled One  
(Collaboration with Gerardo Monterrubio)  
Underglazes on Ceramic Vase  
Approx. 22 x 16 x 16 Inches  
2018

NARSISO MARTINEZ  
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Untitled Two  
(Collaboration with Gerardo Monterrubio)  
Sgraffito and Underglazes on Ceramic Vase  
Approx. 20 x 12 x 15 Inches  
2018

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Untitled Two  
(Collaboration with Gerardo Monterrubio)  
Sgraffito and Underglazes on Ceramic Vase  
Approx. 20 x 12 x 15 Inches  
2018

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Untitled Three  
(Collaboration with Gerardo Monterrubio)  
Underglazes on Ceramic Vase  
Approx. 16 x 14 x 14 Inches  
2018

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Untitled Three  
(Collaboration with Gerardo Monterrubio)  
Underglazes on Ceramic Vase  
Approx. 16 x 14 x 14 Inches  
2018

# NARSISO MARTINEZ

## Education

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

## Solo Exhibitions

2021 Tender Leaves, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
2021 Narsiso Martinez, Visiting Artist, Harvard-Westlake, Los Angeles, CA  
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

2022 The Outwin 2022: American Portraiture Today, Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery, Washington DC  
2021 Ni De Aqui, Ni De Alla, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
2021 Absence/Presence: Latinx and Latin American Artists in Dialogue, ANOTHER SPACE, New York, NY  
2021 LA Billboard Project, Los Angeles, CA  
2020 Living in America: An Exhibition in Four Acts, International Print Center New York, NY  
2020 Life During Wartime, USF Contemporary Art Museum, Tampa, FL  
2019 Our Connection to the Land, MACLA, San Jose, CA  
2019 CONstitutionX: Our Human Rights, Box Gallery Florida  
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



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- 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

## 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/>

## Selected Collections

Hammer Museum, Los Angeles  
Amon Carter Museum of American Art  
The Compound  
Santa Barbara Museum of Art  
Long Beach Museum of Art  
Crocker Art Museum  
Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at the University of Oregon