

TELL ME A STORY AND I'LL SING YOU A SONG
CURATED BY BIANCA MORAN



CJG CHARLIE JAMES GALLERY
CHINATOWN, LOS ANGELES

969 CHUNG KING ROAD LOS ANGELES CA 90012
www.cjamesgallery.com 213.687.0844
info@cjamesgallery.com WED-SUN 12-5

TELL ME A STORY AND I'LL SING YOU A SONG

CURATED BY BIANCA MORAN

Charlie James Gallery is pleased to present *Tell Me a Story And I'll Sing You a Song*, a group exhibition curated by Bianca Moran, with works by Yasmine Diaz, Ramiro Gomez, David Huffman, Dulce Soledad Ibarra, Vincent Miranda, Star Montana, Chinwe Okona, noé olivas, Umar Rashid and Savannah Wood.

This exhibition showcases a group of artists whose practices are invested in the exploration of narrative and the ways in which the personal intersects and complicates the historical record. Through painting, sculpture, photography, mixed media, and installation, these artists explore the nuance and tension that exists between personal histories and dominant historical narratives. There is in each piece the element of juxtaposition that puts forth a reconsideration of context and content, material and meaning. As such, each work is a gesture towards the formation of a visual language that can be read as annotations to the histories that have been built around and through but not from.

About the Curator:

Bianca Moran is an independent curator and educator based in Los Angeles. She is invested in developing a curatorial practice that is engaged with a culturally relevant and responsive pedagogy. Her research interests include history, decolonial futurity, race and ethnicity, identity politics, education and pedagogy, political theory, film and visual culture. She is interested in the reimagining of art history and the spaces where art resides. Bianca is currently pursuing an M.A. in Curatorial Practice and the Public Sphere at USC and holds an M.Ed. in Education from UCLA and a B.A. in Political Science from UC Berkeley. She was born in Los Angeles and raised between the Bay Area and LA. Bianca is also a single mother raising her daughter, Paloma.

TELL ME A STORY AND I'LL SING YOU A SONG
CURATED BY BIANCA MORAN



TELL ME A STORY AND I'LL SING YOU A SONG
CURATED BY BIANCA MORAN



TELL ME A STORY AND I'LL SING YOU A SONG
YASMINE DIAZ



Departures
Mixed media collage,
wallpaper, satin damask,
and glitter on wood panel
48 x 36 inches
2019

TELL ME A STORY AND I'LL SING YOU A SONG
YASMINE DIAZ



Departures
Mixed media
Installation
64 x 64 x 77 inches

TELL ME A STORY AND I'LL SING YOU A SONG
RAMIRO GOMEZ



The Flower Sellers
Acrylic, oil stick
and cardboard on canvas
30 x 30 inches
2019

TELL ME A STORY AND I'LL SING YOU A SONG
DAVID HUFFMAN



Brother from Another Planet #2
Acrylic, oil, fabric, spray
paint, glitter and colored
pencil on wood panel
48 x 48 inches
2019

TELL ME A STORY AND I'LL SING YOU A SONG
DULCE SOLEDAD IBARRA



Bolsote #2: lleno es el
pasado
Five bolsas de Mercado
62 x 17 inches
2018

Bolsote #1: el cuerpo y
el sangre
Five bolsas de Mercado
62 x 25 inches
2018

TELL ME A STORY AND I'LL SING YOU A SONG
VINCENT MIRANDA



that Actavis pull;
Silicone, fabric, Actavis,
Sprite, styrofoam
58 x 50 x 5 inches
2019

TELL ME A STORY AND I'LL SING YOU A SONG
VINCENT MIRANDA



flexin' gold fronts;
Silicone, glass, Patek
water, alloy
10 x 10 x 14 inches
2019

TELL ME A STORY AND I'LL SING YOU A SONG
STAR MONTANA



Maria Mae
Inkjet Print
Edition of 5
27 x 35 inches
2018

TELL ME A STORY AND I'LL SING YOU A SONG
STAR MONTANA



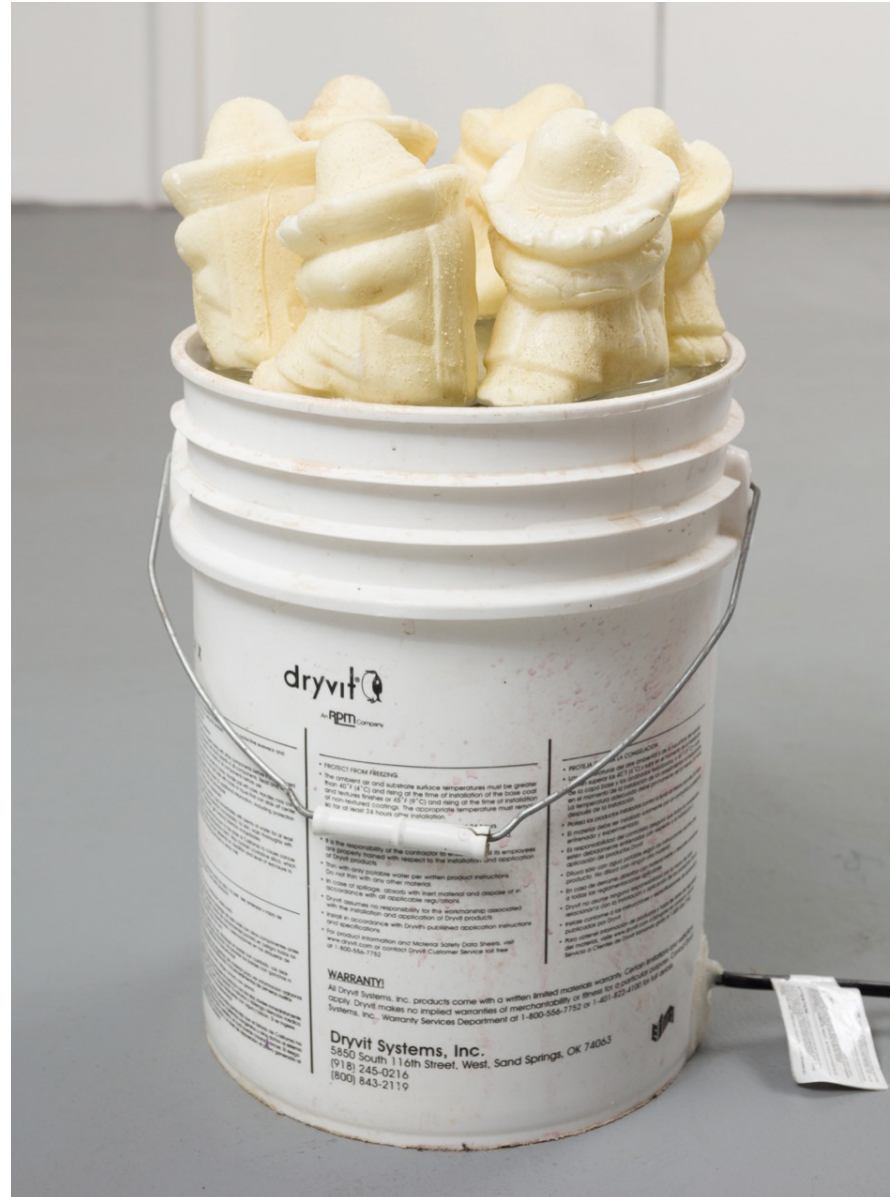
What Remains of Her...
(East LA Hieroglyphics)
Plaster, Pigment, Flowers
35 x 44 x 12 inches

TELL ME A STORY AND I'LL SING YOU A SONG
CHINWE OKONA



From the Window I Can See
the Magnolia Tree
Screen printing on found
glass
33.75 x 30 inches
2019

TELL ME A STORY AND I'LL SING YOU A SONG
noé olivas



corridos
6 foam sculptures, water,
found 5 gallon bucket from
el Río Grande, father's
9ft extension chord
12 x 12 x 14 inches
(Dimensions vary with ex-
tension cord)
2019

TELL ME A STORY AND I'LL SING YOU A SONG
UMAR RASHID



They lied, there are
no borders in space
Acrylic on goat skin
14 x 14 inches

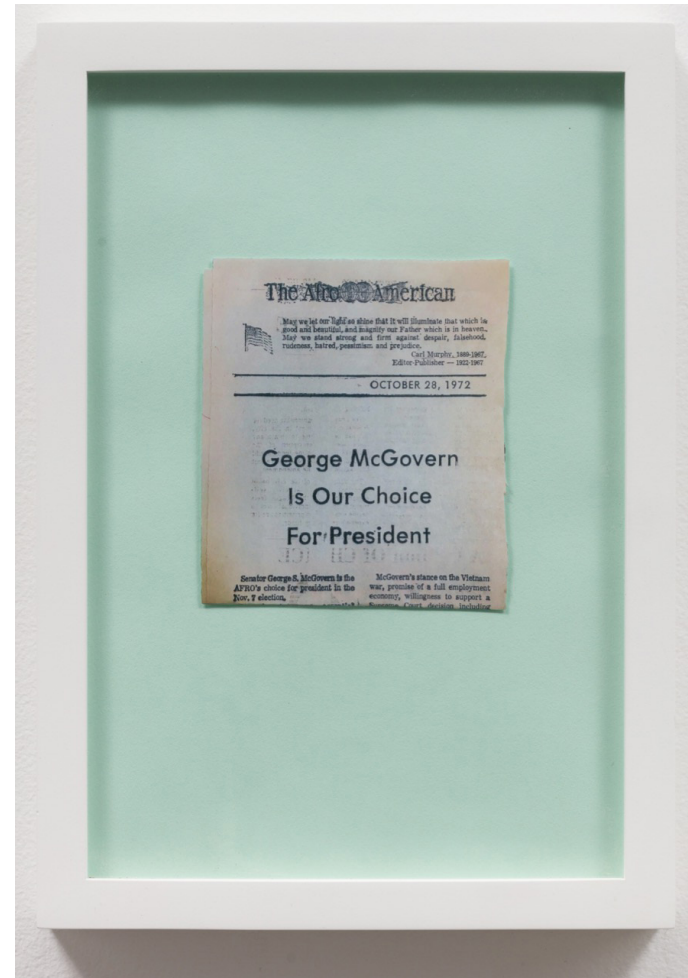
TELL ME A STORY AND I'LL SING YOU A SONG
SAVANNAH WOOD



628 N. Eutaw Street
Triptych
Archival inkjet prints
Edition of 3
9.5 x 13.5 inches each
1972/2019



TELL ME A STORY AND I'LL SING YOU A SONG SAVANNAH WOOD



Our Choice
Diptych
Collage
1972/2019
13.5 x 9.5 inches each

TELL ME A STORY AND I'LL SING YOU A SONG
SAVANNAH WOOD



Right there
Archival inkjet
print
9.5 x 13.5 inches
1972/2019

TELL ME A STORY AND I'LL SING YOU A SONG

ARTIST BIOS

Yasmine Diaz (b. 1977) navigates overlapping tensions around religion, gender, and third-culture identity using personal archives, found imagery and various media on paper. Born in 1977 and raised in Chicago to parents who immigrated from the highlands of southern Yemen, her mixed media work often reflects personal histories of the opposing cultures she was raised within. She has exhibited and performed at spaces including the Brava Theater in San Francisco, the Albuquerque Museum of Art, Human Resources in Los Angeles and The Main Museum. Diaz is a 2019 California Community Foundation Visual Artist Fellow and has works included in the collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, The University of California Los Angeles, and The Poetry Project Space in Berlin. She lives and works in Los Angeles.

Ramiro Gomez was born in 1986 in San Bernardino, California to undocumented Mexican immigrant parents who have since become US citizens. His work has been exhibited at LACMA, the Denver Art Museum, the MFA Houston, the Blanton Museum of Art at the University of Texas at Austin, the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, and the Crocker Art Museum among many others. In 2016 Ramiro Gomez was the subject of a book by award-winning author Lawrence Weschler titled *Domestic Scenes - The Art of Ramiro Gomez*, published by Abrams Publishing. Gomez's work has been reviewed and discussed in the Los Angeles Times, The Atlantic, CNN, National Public Radio, CARLA, The New York Times Sunday Magazine, the LA Weekly, Harper's Bazaar, Hyperallergic, and others. His work is in the collections of LACMA, the Denver Art Museum, the MCA San Diego, the Crocker Art Museum, the Blanton Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the Museum of Latin American Art, the Cornell Fine Arts Museum, JP Morgan and Chase, and Chapman University's Escalette Collection among others. Gomez is represented by Charlie James Gallery in Los Angeles and PPOW Gallery in New York. Gomez lives and works in West Hollywood, California.

David Huffman (b. 1963, Berkeley, CA) is an artist whose paintings are an amalgamation of the worlds of formal abstraction and social identity. He is often identified with the Afrofuturist movement. Huffman has been shown nationally and internationally at ICA, London; Iniva, London; the Studio Museum in Harlem; Santa Monica Museum of Art; the Wattis Institute, San Francisco; YBCA, San Francisco; the San Jose Museum of Art; the Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento; Berkeley Art Museum; and the Oakland Museum of Art, among others. He is the recipient of the Fleishhacker Foundation Eureka Fellowship, the Artadia Foundation Award, and the Barclay Simpson Award. Huffman's work has been reviewed and written about in the New York Times, Art in America, Frieze, Artforum, Art Papers, Flash Art, Art on Paper, Los Angeles Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, the International Review of African American Art, NY Arts, the San Francisco Bay Guardian, and Art Journal. He is an associate professor of Painting, Drawing, and Fine Arts at California College of the Arts.

Dulce Soledad Ibarra (b. 1991, Chino, CA) is a multi-disciplinary artist, curator, designer and non-profit arts advocate based in Los Angeles with special interests in community and identity-emphasized arts and opportunity. As a practicing artist, Ibarra discusses issues of generational guilt, intersecting communities, language, and cultural identities in videos, installations, performances, and participatory work. Looking through queer Brown/Latinx/Xicanx perspective, the work is fueled by emotional labor, personal research and analysis. Ibarra is in the MFA program at Roski's School of Art and Design at USC and has shown at institutes such as Wignall Museum of Contemporary Art, Angels Gate Cultural Center, and the Guggenheim Gallery at Chapman University.

TELL ME A STORY AND I'LL SING YOU A SONG

ARTIST BIOS

Vincent Miranda (b. 1991, Broward County, FL) is an interdisciplinary artist from South Florida, living and working in San Francisco, California. Using sculptural investigations, his work explores an upbringing in the Contemporary South, particularly one viewed through the lens of Southern Hip Hop. There is this ambiance that pervades the region; this sedated, slow moving feeling. From this position, he explores the idea of The Come Up, the allure of the drink Lean, and its drive to sonically transform the music and landscape. Employing methods of mold making, drywalling, and hyperreal pigmentation, Miranda creates a space in which you're presented with both hanging skins and sagging walls; everything is Leaning and in tune with that feeling of the South. He received his MFA in Fine Arts from California College of the Arts in 2019 and his BFA from Florida Atlantic University in 2014.

Star Montana (b. 1987, Los Angeles, CA) is a photo-based artist who lives and works in Los Angeles, California. She was born and raised in the East Los Angeles neighborhood of Boyle Heights, which is predominantly Mexican American and serves as the backdrop to much of her work. Star's imagery deals with class, social environment, and identity within the personal, her family. Three dots and Tear drops, a long-term project with her family that has dealt with fragmented histories, loss, and the hope for the next generation was featured at the Vincent Price Art Museum, Monterey Park, and the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center. Before coming to USC, she completed a residency at the Main Museum where she began to work on her themes within a larger scope of Los Angeles residents via portraiture and video; the culmination of this work was the show I Dream of Los Angeles. Recently, her work has been shown at Ballroom Marfa, Marfa, Texas; the Corcoran School of Art and Design, Washington, DC; and Occidental College, Los Angeles. Montana received her BFA in 2013 from the School of Visual Arts, New York and is a 2019 candidate for MFA at the University of Southern California.

noé olivas (b.1987, San Diego, CA) is a Southern California-based artist. Through printing making, sculpture, and performance, he investigates the poetics of labor. He considers the relationship between labor as it fits into the conceptions of femininity and masculinity in order to play with and reshape cultural references, narratives, myths, traditions, and objects, ultimately employing a new meaning. olivas received his BA in Visual Arts from the University of San Diego in 2013 and is currently an MFA candidate at University of Southern California. He lives and works in South Central, Los Angeles, CA.

chinwe okona (b. 1990, Atlanta, Georgia) is a multidisciplinary artist and writer, living and working in Los Angeles, California. Her work investigates the palpability of sentiment, nostalgia, and forgiveness, and centers self-documentation as the implement of memory creation. Her writing has been published in The Nation, The Fader, and Leste Magazine. In 2016, she founded PALMSS Magazine, an annual anthology of creative people of color and their work. chinwe received her BA in neuroscience at Oberlin College and is currently pursuing an MBA at the USC Marshall School of Business.

Umar Rashid (Frohawk Two Feathers) (b. 1976, Chicago, IL) first began this project in 2005. Rashid set out to create approximately 300 + years of alternate history spanning from 1642-1890. His narrative is based upon the supposition that after the English Civil War ended in 1642, France and England were merged into a global super empire known as Frengland. In addition to focusing on the day-to-day operations of empire, he also focuses heavily on the issues of race, gender, class, and power within it. And as a global narrative, Rashid is able to work in a wide range of styles, mediums, and formats, as he researches and explores the cultures of the world.

TELL ME A STORY AND I'LL SING YOU A SONG

ARTIST BIOS

This particular narrative is not only informed by the past but also reaches forward and draws inspiration from the present, notably urban, pop culture, hip hop, and gang culture. Upon relocating to Los Angeles in autumn of 2000, Rashid moved into East Los Angeles where he was able to syncretize my African-American upbringing in Chicago with that of the Chicano culture in his current location. Rashid currently creating a micro-narrative dealing with his reinterpretation of Latin America's colonial past from Los Angeles to Lima, and beyond.

Savannah Wood (b. 1988, Berkeley, CA) is an artist and cultural producer with deep roots in Baltimore and Los Angeles. Using photography, collage and sculpture, she uncovers obscured histories, taps into ancestral magic and disrupts linear readings of time. Since returning to L.A. in 2015 after three formative years in Chicago, she has been doing curatorial and communications work at Clockshop, a multidisciplinary arts organization based in Frogtown. Savannah is a graduate cum laude of the University of Southern California, where she studied fine arts with minors in French and entrepreneurship.