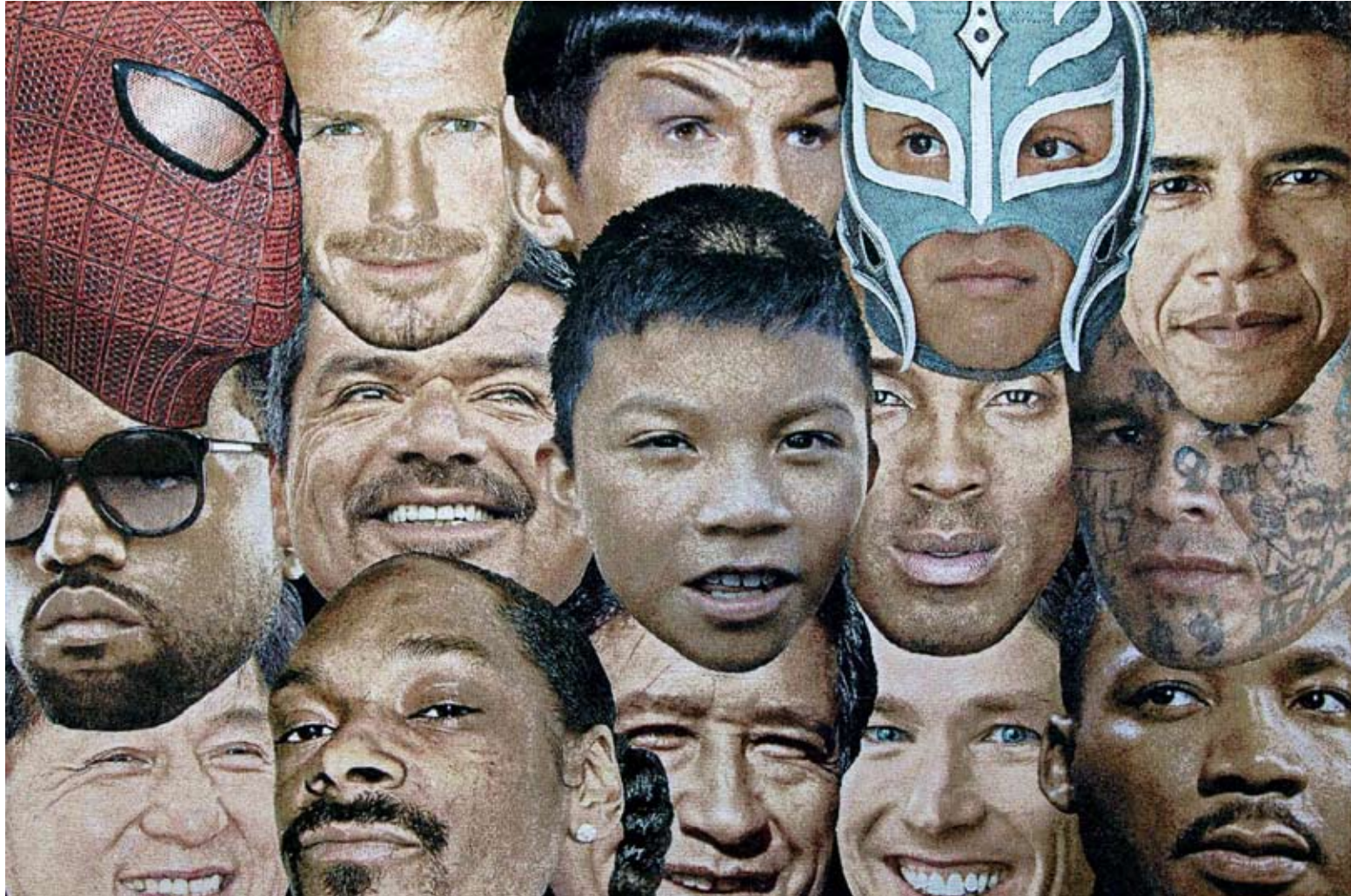


NERY GABRIEL LEMUS
A HERO AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A SANDWICH



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-SAT 12-6

NERY GABRIEL LEMUS
A HERO AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A SANDWICH

Charlie James Gallery is pleased to present our second solo show by gallery artist Nery Gabriel Lemus, winner of the 2013 COLA Individual Artist Grant, and the 2013 Rema Hort Mann Foundation Award. In this current body of work, Lemus continues to explore domestic issues, issues that can often manifest in society at large. In particular, Lemus brings focus to the influence, positive and negative, adult men have over young boys, either within families or as men in society. Lemus' interest in the topic stems from his involvement in social work over the past 14 years, where he has worked with boys and young men with absent fathers and a lack of positive role models.

The work in the show examines the concept of heroism - particularly in what constitutes a hero. Society has established heroes in a multitude of different spaces, frequently cemented through entertainment culture. In our hyper-mediated age, many established heroes are found to be fraudulent, and many elevated personae exemplify behaviors of questionable merit. The title of this exhibition is taken from Alice Childress' book, *A Hero Ain't Nothin' But a Sandwich* (1973). The book chronicles the struggles of Benjie, a young African-American kid struggling with acceptance and self-worth while flirting dangerously with heroin addiction. Benjie utters the titular phrase implying that heroes and saviors have ceased to exist in the hard times he lives in. Within this body of work, Lemus uses recognizable childhood archetypes like stuffed animals, piñatas, superheroes and childhood characters to incorporate the idea of heroic absence, and to suggest where heroes might be found.

Nery Gabriel Lemus was born in Los Angeles, in 1977. Lemus received his BFA at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California (2007) and his MFA at the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia, California (2009). Lemus also attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine (2008).

His work has been featured in several group exhibitions including, *Made in L.A. 2012*, organized by the Hammer Museum in collaboration with LAXART, *OZ: New Offerings From Angel City* at Museo Regional Guadalajara in Jalisco, Mexico, *The Seventh House* at Project Row Houses in Houston, Texas, the 2010 Border Art Biennial at El Paso museum in El Paso, Texas, *El Grito*, at The University of Arkansas in Little Rock, Arkansas, and *Common Ground*, at the California African-American Museum. Lemus is also a recipient of the 2012- 2013 prestigious City of Los Angeles (C.O.L.A.) award and the 2013 recipient of the Rema Hort Mann Foundation Award.

NERY GABRIEL LEMUS
A HERO AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A SANDWICH



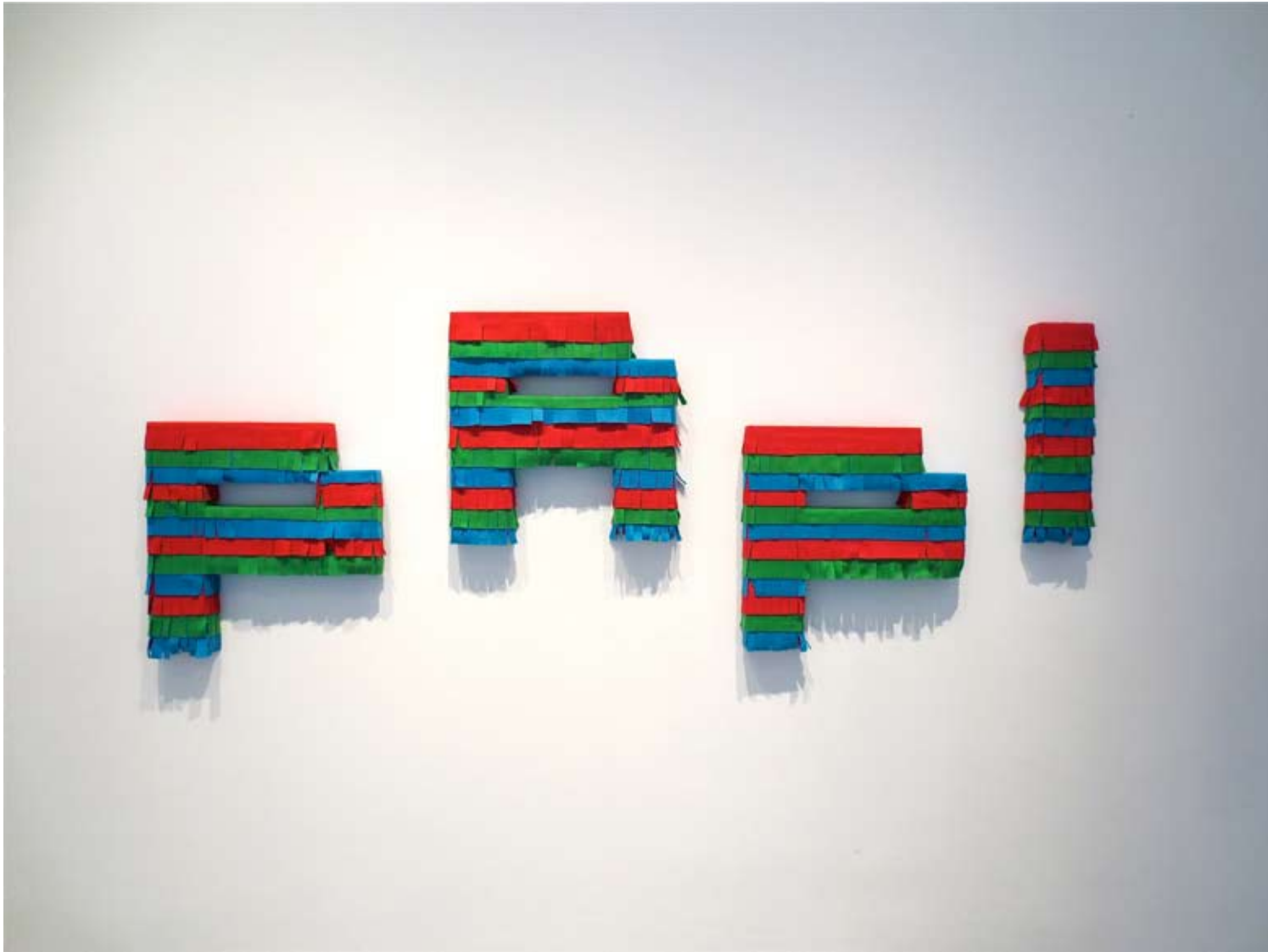
The Alphabet is Full of Characters, Cotton tapestry, 37 x 52 inches, 2013, Framed

NERY GABRIEL LEMUS
A HERO AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A SANDWICH



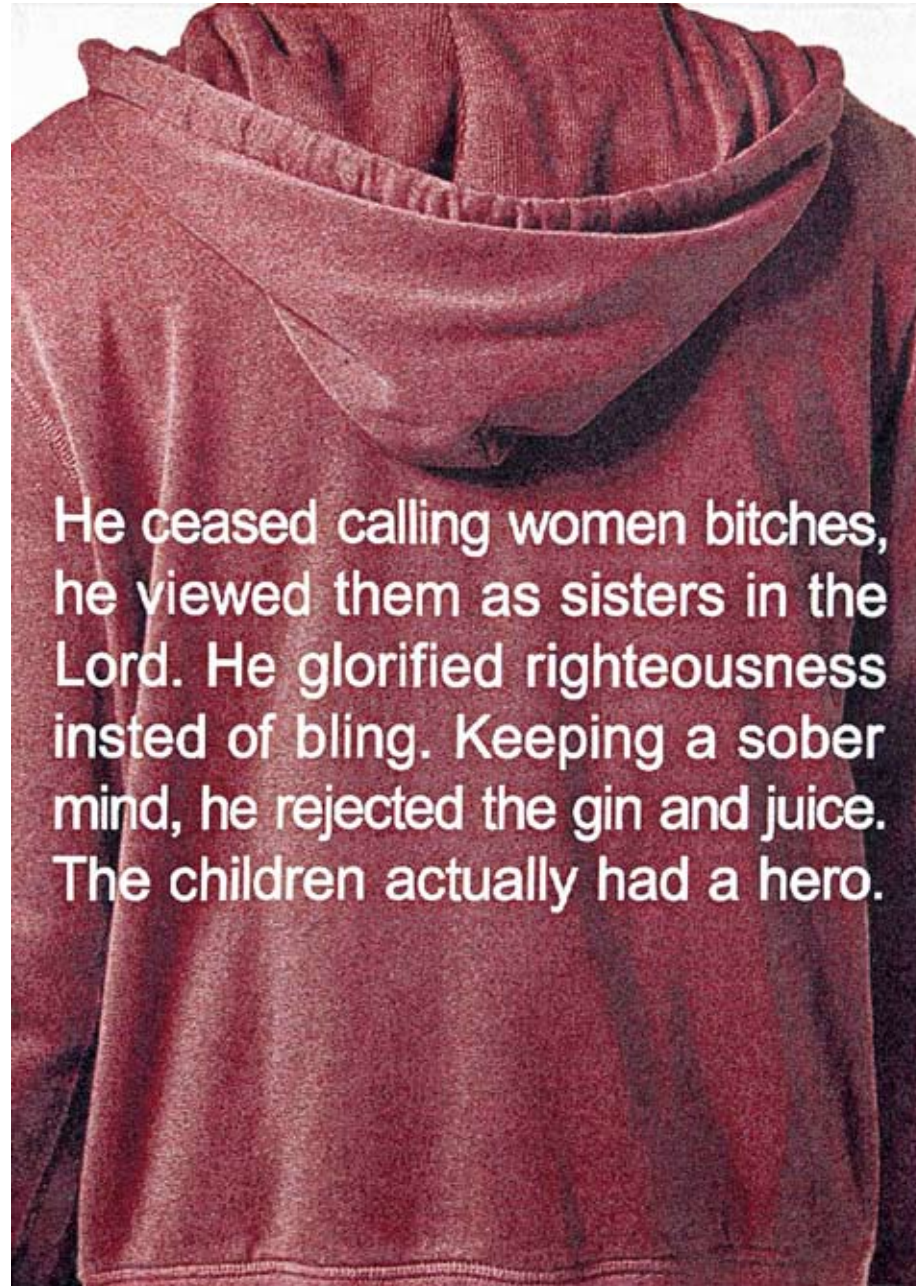
Happy Fathers Day, Mom!, Cotton tapestry, 15 1/4 x 17 1/2 inches
2013, Framed

NERY GABRIEL LEMUS
A HERO AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A SANDWICH



PAPI, Felt on wood, Installation Size: , 36 x 103 inches,
Ps are 24 x 24 x 3, A is 24 x 24 x 3, I is 24 x 6.5 x 3, 2013

NERY GABRIEL LEMUS
A HERO AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A SANDWICH



He ceased calling women bitches,
he viewed them as sisters in the
Lord. He glorified righteousness
insted of bling. Keeping a sober
mind, he rejected the gin and juice.
The children actually had a hero.

The Children Actually
Had a Hero
Cotton tapestry
52 x 38 inches
2013
Framed

NERY GABRIEL LEMUS
A HERO AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A SANDWICH



All Grown Up - Never Grew Up
Mixed Media
28 x 27 x 38 inches
2013



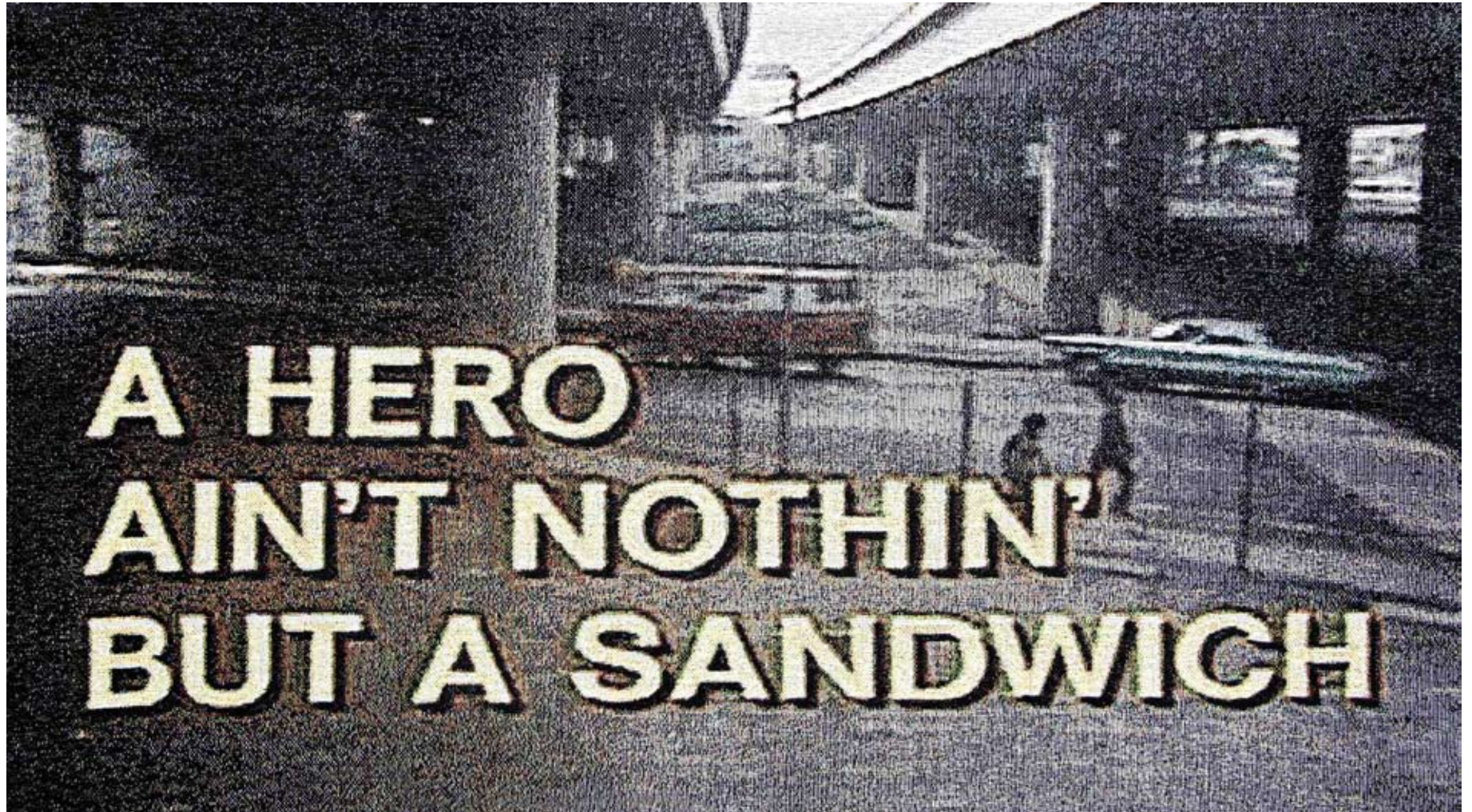
Going Where You're Going, That's Where
Mixed media
24 x 15 x 33 inches
2013

NERY GABRIEL LEMUS
A HERO AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A SANDWICH



Less Guns! More,
Good Dads!
Graphite and Oil
Pastel on paper
52 x 36 inches
2013, Framed

NERY GABRIEL LEMUS
A HERO AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A SANDWICH



A Hero Ain't Nothin' But a Sandwich, Cotton tapestry, 15 x 26 inches, 2013, Framed

NERY GABRIEL LEMUS
A HERO AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A SANDWICH



in collaboration with Gael F Lemus, I Love You Luke (Things I Learned from my Dad and TV), 2013, Mixed media, 8 x 10.5 inches



in collaboration with Gael F Lemus, Groceries Hulk (Things I Learned from my Dad and TV), 2013, Mixed media, 8 x 10.5 inches

NERY GABRIEL LEMUS
A HERO AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A SANDWICH



in collaboration with Gael F Lemus, It Don't Rain on my Parade (Things I Learned from my Dad and TV), 2013, Mixed media, 8 x 10.5 inches

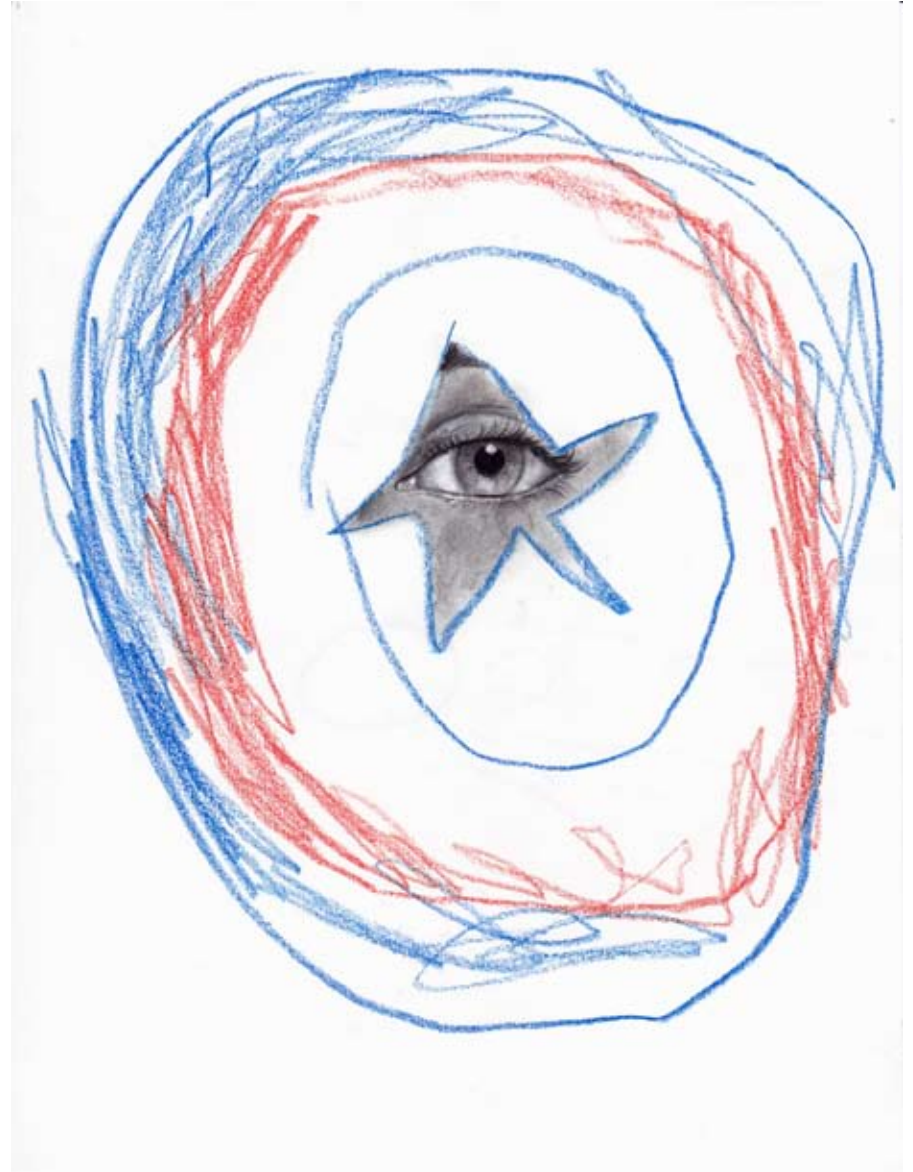


in collaboration with Gael F Lemus, #1 Dad (Things I Learned from my Dad and TV), 2013, Mixed media, 8 x 10.5 inches

NERY GABRIEL LEMUS
A HERO AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A SANDWICH



in collaboration with Gael F Lemus, E.T Love
(Things I Learned from my Dad and TV), 2013, Mixed
media, 8 x 10.5 inches



in collaboration with Gael F Lemus, It Wouldn't Be
Nothin' Without a Woman (Things I Learned from my
Dad and TV), 2013, Mixed media, 8 x 10.5 inches

NERY GABRIEL LEMUS
A HERO AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A SANDWICH

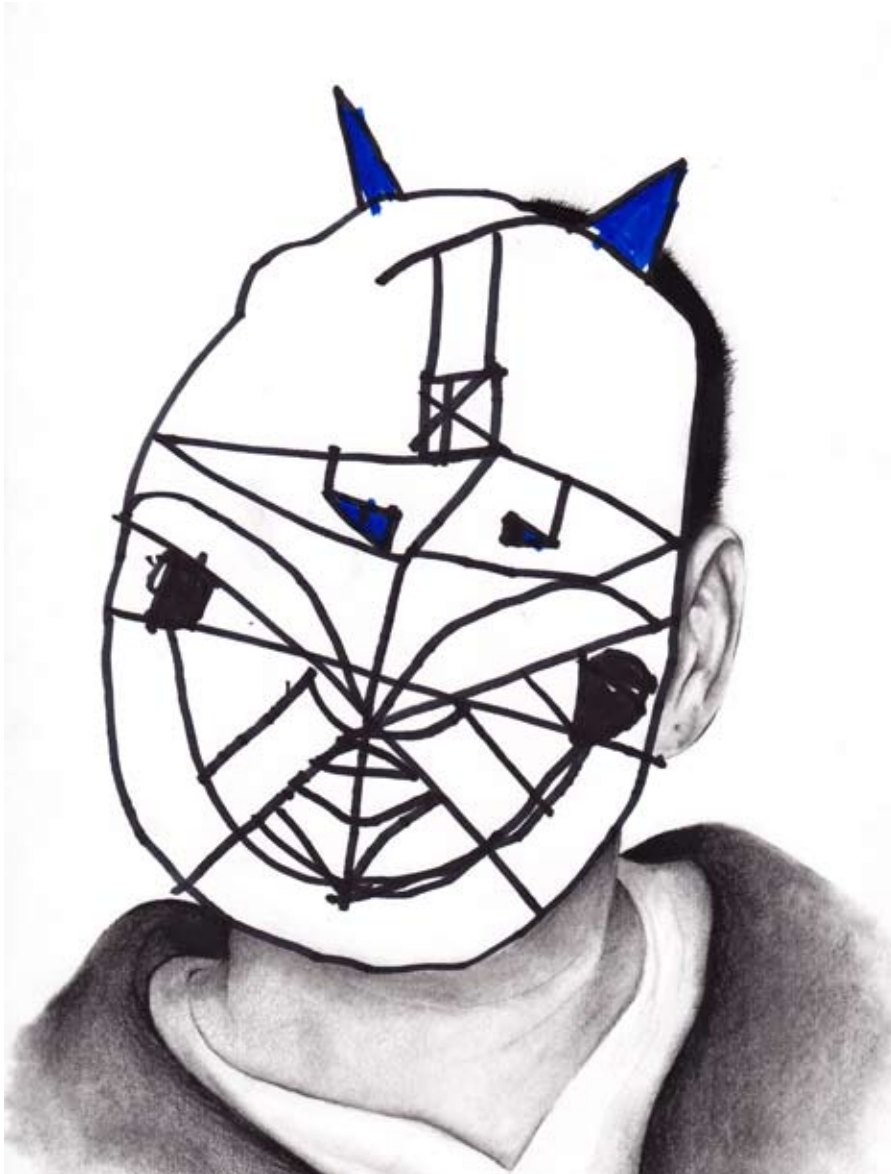


in collaboration with Gael F Lemus, Let the Children Come to Me (Things I Learned from my Dad and TV), 2013, Mixed media, 8 x 10.5 inches



in collaboration with Gael F Lemus, Can I Do Anything For You (Things I Learned from my Dad and TV), 2013, Mixed media, 8 x 10.5 inches

NERY GABRIEL LEMUS
A HERO AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A SANDWICH



in collaboration with Gael F Lemus, Go Go Power Ranger (Things I Learned from my Dad and TV), 2013, Mixed media, 8 x 10.5 inches



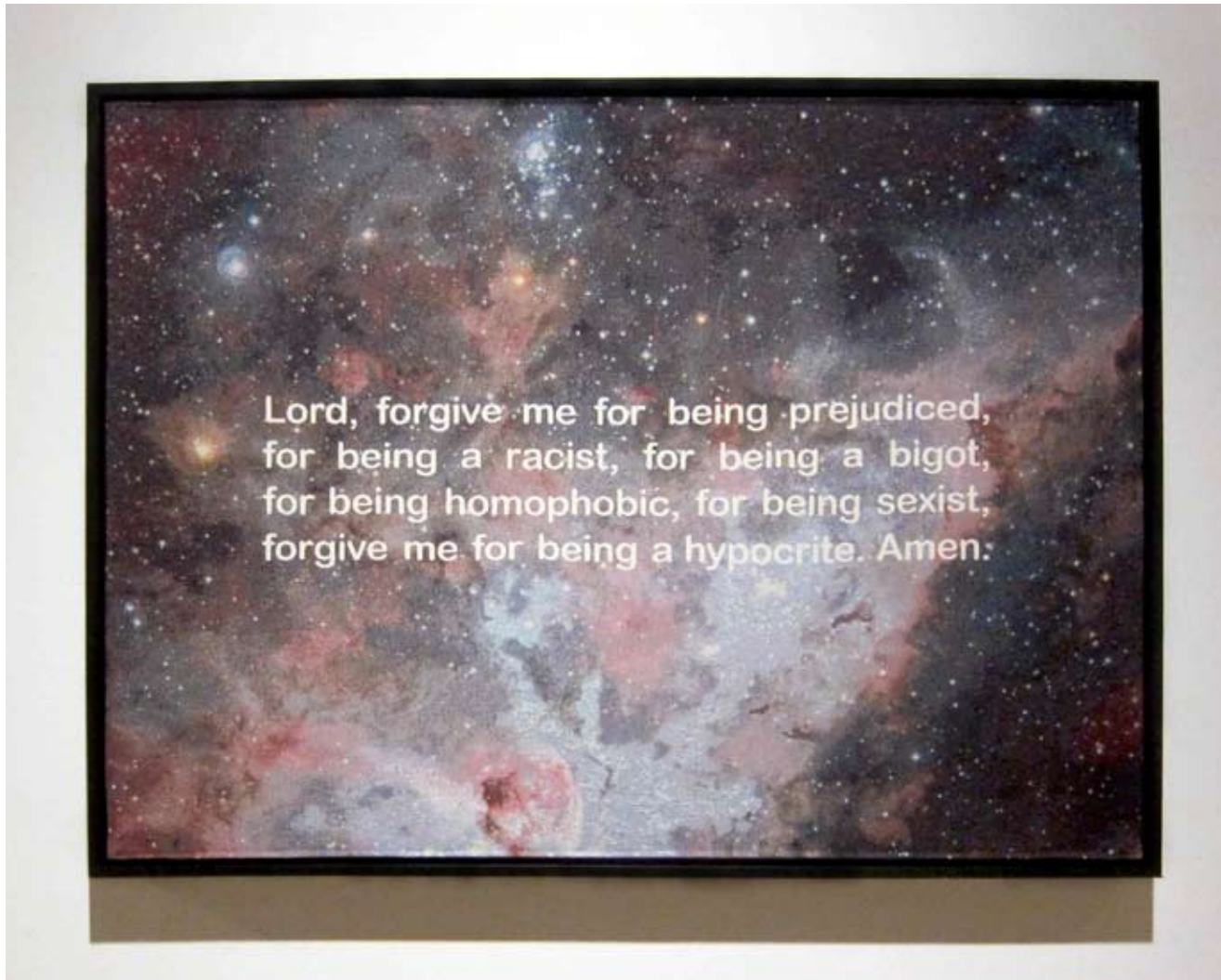
in collaboration with Gael F Lemus, Balloon Spider-Man (Things I Learned from my Dad and TV), 2013, Mixed media, 8 x 10.5 inches

NERY GABRIEL LEMUS
A HERO AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A SANDWICH



in collaboration with Gael F Lemus, Obe-Juan
(Things I Learned from my Dad and TV), 2013, Mixed
media, 8 x 10.5 inches

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Hypocrite's Prayer, Cotton tapestry, 38 x 52 inches, 2013

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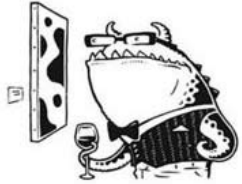
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Los Angeles Times



Culture Monster
ALL THE ARTS, ALL THE TIME

Review: Nery Gabriel Lemus at Charlie James Gallery

By Sharon Mizota | February 28, 2013



Nery Gabriel Lemus, "Happy Fathers Day, Mom!" 2013, cotton tapestry, 15 1/4" x 17 1/2". (Courtesy of Charlie James Gallery / February 28, 2013)

In his latest exhibition at Charlie James Gallery, Nery Gabriel Lemus takes a somewhat meandering course through the contradictions of fatherhood and masculinity. Most of the works are pointed but heavy one liners, such as a tapestry of a baseball cap bearing the words, "Happy Father's Day, Mom," or a graphite drawing of guns scrawled with earnest but grammatically weird sentences: "Less guns! More, Good dads!"

Still, a couple of bizarre stuffed animals and a series of small drawings save the day. The animals are made of multi-colored fabrics familiar from serapes and blankets. One appears to be a heavy-lidded creature that has just ingested a small boy. The other is a horse-like figure with a small male doll strapped around its neck. Sweet, with an edge of menace, they speak of childhood devotion despite harsher realities.

The drawings were created in collaboration with Lemus' six-year-old son, Gael. They integrate expressive child's renderings of super heroes and villains with slicker pencil images or cartoon speech bubbles. A wonderfully raw portrait of Darth Vader, his tender, hot pink scalp exposed, shouts, "I LOVE YOU LUKE!" Spiderman holds a bright red balloon, and E.T. wraps a protective arm around a wobbly Incredible Hulk. By creating caring male heroes together, Lemus and son recast popular narratives of violence and mastery as stories of love. Sometimes you just want that Incredible Hulk to hold you.

NERY GABRIEL LEMUS
A HERO AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A SANDWICH

NERY GABRIEL LEMUS

Born in Los Angeles, California, 1977. Lives in Altadena, California

EDUCATION

MFA, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, California, 2009

Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, Maine, 2008

BFA, Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA, 2007

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2013

A Hero Ain't Nothin' but a Sandwich, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (Forthcoming)

2010

Until the Day Breaks and Shadows Flee, Project Row Houses, Houston, TX Black is Brown and Brown is Beautiful, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2009

Friction of Distance, Steve Turner Contemporary, Los Angeles, CA On Beyond Rhyme!, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA

2008

The Pursuit of Happiness, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA

2007

Fallen Nature and the Two Cities, Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA

1998

Ode to Consciousness, Pasadena City College/ Library, Pasadena, CA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2012

Made in L.A., organized by the Hammer Museum and LA><ART, Los Angeles, CA Venice Beach Biennial (VBB), directed by Hammer curator Ali Subotnick, Venice, CA Go Tell it on the Mountain, California African American Museum, Los Angeles, CA Artists' Tower of Protest by Mark di Suvero, Los Angeles, CA

Go Tell it on the Mountain, Charlie James Galley, Los Angeles, CA

Blake Collects: Challenging Assumptions, The Blake School- Martha Bennett Gallery, Minneapolis, MN

2011

IndiVisible: African-Native American Lives in the Americas, California African American Museum (CAAM), Los Angeles, CA

If These Wall Could Talk—A Conversation, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

If These Wall Could Talk—A Conversation, Marine Art Salon, Santa Monica, CA Bienal Fronteriza de Arte 2010, Centro Cultural Paso del Norte, Chihuahua, Mexico

2010

Border Art Biennial 2010, El Paso Museum of Art, El Paso, TX

The Seventh House (Round 33), Project Row Houses, Houston, TX

The Road to Hell is Paved..., Las Cienegas Projects, Los Angeles, CA

El Grito, The University of Arkansas/Little Rock Art Gallery, Little Rock, AR

52nd Atelier (2010 Print Fair Exhibition), Self Help Graphics and Art, Los Angeles, CA

2009

OZ: New Offerings From Angel City, Museo Regional Guadalupe, Jalisco, Mexico

NERY GABRIEL LEMUS
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Why Video, REDCAT, Los Angeles, CA
Why Theory - Curated by Rita Gonzales and Anat Egbi,
Spring Arts Tower, Los Angeles, CA New Insight - Curated
by Susanne Ghez, Art Chicago, Chicago, IL

2008
Torrance Juried Art Exhibition - Juried by Gosia Wojas,
Torrance Art Museum, Torrance, CA V Bienal Internacional
de Estandartes, Centro Cultural Tijuana (CECUT), Tijuana,
Mexico Changing Ties, Avenue 50 Studio, Los Angeles,
CA
War Room, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA
Common Ground, California African American Museum
(CAAM), Los Angeles, CA

2007
May Not Be Suitable for All Audiences, Upstairs At The
Market Gallery, Los Angeles, CA Commerce: Systems of Ex-
change, Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA
About Face, 1522 Gallery, Venice, CA

2006
Holy Nuptials, Avenue 50 Studio, Los Angeles, CA
Un Guatemala Por Conocer, Latino Art Museum (LAM), Pomo-
na, CA
Chicano: Pronouncing Diversity, Eagle Rock Center for
the Arts, Los Angeles, CA Conversations North of Mexico,
Mexican Cultural Institute, Los Angeles, CA
Not Always Red, Latino Art Museum (LAM), Pomona, CA
A Closer Look, Blue Chips Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2005
Heads or Tails - Curated by John Millei, Art Center Col-
lege of Design, Pasadena, CA Emerging from Aztlan, The
DA Center for the Arts, Pomona, CA
Homenajes/ Homage's, Avenue 50 Studio, Los Angeles, CA
Perspectives in Mictlan, Indianapolis Art Center, India-
napolis, IN
Reflections of Who We Are, Arte Diseño, Monrovia, CA

2003
Al Cielo, Rock Rose Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
No Struggle No Progress, Rock Rose Art Gallery, Los An-
geles, CA

2001
Nahual: Journey in Search of Our Indigenous Self, De
Colores Gallery, Pasadena, CA 1999
La Causa, Self Help Graphics and Art, Los Angeles, CA

1998
El Big Two-Five, Self Help Graphics and Art, Los Ange-
les, CA Art at the Aztec, Aztec Hotel, Monrovia, CA

1997
Viva La Vida, Self Help Graphics and Art, Los Angeles,
CA Made in L.A., Latino Museum, Los Angeles, CA
Drama from the Heart, Pasadena City College, Pasadena,
CA

1996
Flores de Esperansa, Self Help Graphics and Art, Los
Angeles, CA Love for Frida, El Pueblo Art Gallery, Los
Angeles, CA

CURATORIAL PROJECTS

2012
Go Tell It on the Mountain, Lynn Aldrich, Edgar Arce-
neaux, Daphne Arthur, Andrea Bowers, Tracy Brown, Caro-
lyn Castaño, Robert Colescott, Sam Doyle, Todd Gray,
Mark Steven Greenfield, Zeal Harris, Caroline Kent, John
K. Lawson, Diego Laclery, Nery Gabriel Lemus, Kerry
James Marshall, Rosalyn Myles, John Outterbridge, Nikki
Pressley, Sulton Rogers, Erika Rothenberg, Sanjit Sethi,
Herbert Singleton, Nate Young- California African Ameri-
can Museum, Los Angeles, CA
Go Tell It on the Mountain, Rev. Ethan Acres, Edgar
Arceneaux, Andrea Bowers, Carolyn Castaño, Alex Donis,

NERY GABRIEL LEMUS

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Nery Gabriel Lemus, Nikki Pressley, Erika Rothenberg,
Sanjit Sethi- Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2010

The Seventh House (Round 33), Edgar Arceneaux, Andrea
Bowers, Charles Gaines, Olga Koumoundouros, Nery Gabriel
Lemus, Rodney McMillian- Project Row Houses,

Houston, TX

2008

Changing Ties, Margarita Cabrera, Harry Gamboa Jr., Nery
Gabriel Lemus, Akosua Adoma Owusu, Nikki Presley, Rubén
Ortiz-Torres, Nate Young- Avenue 50 Studio, Los Angeles,
CA

2003

No Struggle No Progress, Leo Eguiarte, Jose-Luis Gutier-
rez, Nery Gabriel Lemus, Marco Martinez, Cesar Medina,
Midztoro, Ricardo Miranda, Monica Robles, John Torres-
Rock Rose Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

COMISSIONS AND LOANS 2007

CBS Broadcasting Inc., Cane, Loan of work for set, Los
Angeles, CA 1998

Plaza de la Raza, Tropical America, Set design, Los An-
geles, CA 1997

Ballet Folklorico del Pacifico, Set design, Luckman Fine
Arts Complex, Los Angeles, CA

ARTIST LECTURES

2010

Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), LA Print: Edi-
tion 1, Lecture on printmaking representing Self Help
Graphics and Art, Los Angeles, CA

The Blanton Museum of Art, Lectures on Art in the Black
Diaspora: Artist panel with Edgar Arceneaux, Olga Kou-
moundouros and Nery Gabriel Lemus, Austin, TX

Rice University, Visiting Artist Lecturer, Houston, TX

2009

Art Chicago, Doctor Artist, Panel discussion on the role
of a Ph.D. in Studio Art, including New Insight Artists
and moderated by James Elkins, Chicago, IL

2008

Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Exploring
Identity Trough Printmaking, Evenings for Educators, Los
Angeles, CA

California African American Museum (CAAM), Cross Cultur-
al Partnerships, Panel discussion with "Common Ground"
Artists, Edgar Arceneaux, Cindy Santos Bravo, Jane Cas-
tillo, John Outterbridge, and CAAM director Shermaine
Jefferson, Los Angeles, CA

1998

Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, The Power of Art in Youth,
Los Angeles, CA

1997

EZLN (Zapatista Army of National Liberation) Resistance
Camp, Encuentro Cultural, Presentation about public art
delivered to EZLN, Chiapas, Mexico

SCREENINGS

2009

Proclamation of the Lined-up Fade, 2007, REDCAT, Los
Angeles, CA

A Study of Gratification and Restraint No.2, 2008, RED-
CAT, Los Angeles, CA

2008

Supposed to Be, 2008, Projections on Lake- Curated by
David Bradshaw, Pasadena, CA

BIBLIOGRAPHY

2012

Griffin, Jonathan. "Made in L.A. 2012", Frieze, Issue

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149, September 2012

Buckley, Annie. "Made in L.A.", Art in America, September 2012, pg.151

Ellegood, Anne, Fistenberg, Lauri, Gaines, Malik, Garcia, Cesar, Subotnick, Ali, with text by Amanda Hunt, "Made in L.A. 2012, Exhibition Catalogue, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA, June

Fitzpatrick, Kyle, "Made in L.A.: Nery Gabriel Lemus 30/60", Los Angeles I'm Yours, May 1 Boucher, Brian, "Hammer Biennial Artists and Mohn Prize Announced", Art in America, March 14

Aguilar, Carlyn. "Go Tell It on the Mountain", Notes on Looking, February 16

Wagley, Catherine. "Burnt Church and Other Sacrilege", DailyServing, January 20

2011

Moret, A., "If These Wall Could Talk- A Conversation", Whitehot Magazine, April

Interview, GYST Radio, June 12, 2011, www.blogradio.com/2011/06/13/interview-with-artist-ner-y-gabriel-lemus
Fell, David A. "Round 33: The Seventh House", Art Lies, Spring/ Summer, Issue #68

Lark, Laura. "Round 33: The Seventh House at Project Row Houses", Glasstire, January Lemu, Massa. "Round 33: The Seventh House", ...might be good, February 4, Issue #162

2010

"Border Art Biennial 2010", Exhibition Catalogue, El Paso Museum of Art and Museo de Arte de Ciudad Juárez
Tran, Bidy. "The Road to Hell Is Paved...", Exhibition Catalogue, Las Cienegas Projects Interview, LAarstream, September 2, 2010, www.laartstream.com/creative-current/ner-y-gabriel-lemus/

Pullon, Doug, "Violence Stays on the Artists' Minds in Cross-border Exhibit". El Paso Times 21 November 2010: 3F

Winder, Ellis. "Exhibits sample Hispanic Art". Arkansas Democrat-Gazette [Little Rock] 24 August 2010.

Peacock, Leslie Newell. "The Artists' Gritos". Arkansas Times [Little Rock] 2 August 2010.

2009

Davalos, Ignacio. "El Museo Regional ya es la Tierra de Oz". Milenio [Guadalajara] 25 November 2009: pg.43

Tres Visiones Multiculturales de Los Angeles, El Informador [Guadalajara] 25 November 2009: 10B

Alvarado, Alejandro. "Traen Arte Actual de L.A." Mural [Guadalajara] 25 November 2009: Cultura Ebgi, Anat, and Gonzales, Rita. "Why Theory", (catalogue)

2008

Palau, Marta. "ES2008 Tijuana V Bienal Internacional de Estandartes", Centro Cultural Tijuana (CECUT), Exhibition Catalogue, Tijuana, Mexico

Gurza, Agustin. "A Deeper Brown". Los Angeles Times 2 February 2008: E1, E-16.

1996

Linares, Jesse J. "Exponen Raíces Culturales Mexicanas de Los Angeles". La Opinion November 1996: 1C-2C

AWARDS

Rema Hort Mann Foundation Award, 2013

COLA Individual Artist Fellowship, 2012-2013

Mignone Fellowship, 2008

Charitable Lead Trust CalArts Scholarship, 2008

The Ahmanson Foundation Scholarship, 2007