

ARRÓNIZ

Painting After / Omar Rodriguez-Graham / Press Release

Painting After Omar Rodriguez-Graham

Main Room

February 7 - April 22, 2017

Opening reception: February 7, 7pm

After more than twelve years of trajectory, Omar Rodriguez-Graham's practice is at an inflection point. Omar has developed a more-than-critical view of painting as a discipline of art, as a battleground of ideas about painting. He uses its own mechanisms to talk about its communicative effectiveness, and in the process, to expand its activity towards new experimental narratives, which are expressed through the combination of memory and desire.

Since the beginning of his work as a painter, Rodriguez-Graham has been devoted to the exploration of the processes and languages of painting. If his previous work established the premise that "painting should not function as a creation of images, but as a presentation of the fundamental language of painting", his recent body of work tries, not to present, but to intervene —subvert?— the reliable link between the sign and its world of referentiality.

His recent work is founded under the Platonic concept of anamnesis, which he builds through the cannibalization of iconic images taken from Western art. By appropriating and distorting the figures, marks, colors and space of these classic works, the artist creates a visual vocabulary shaped, under different parameters, in completely new compositions.

Painting After is set as a series of pictorial reminiscences, like past quotes passed down by the works' own vision and admired thoughts, in order to examine its visual construction. Rodriguez-Graham proposes a revision —a proper way of measuring the work's context— by digitizing, then vectorizing classic European paintings, and finally, returning them to the canvas. Weighing the way we construct our visions from the remnants of the original visual data.



Terremoto / 2016
oil on linen
190 x 160 cm

[Press pictures](#)

Omar Rodriguez-Graham

Mexico, 1978

Rodriguez-Graham graduated with a BA from Drew University in Madison, N.J., U.S.A. in 2003 and received his MFA in Painting from Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia, P.A., U.S.A. in 2005. He has twice been a recipient of FONCA's Beca de Jovenes Creadores fellowship. Among the residencies he has attended are The Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture (2013) and The Banff Centre (2010). He will be a resident at Casa Wabi in 2017.

His work has been shown both individually and collectively in Mexico, the United States of America, Europe and South America. His work is held in private and public collections in Brazil, Colombia, Germany, Mexico, Peru, Singapore, the United States of America and Venezuela among which are included The JUMEX Collection, Mexico; Museum of Modern Art, México; SPACE Collection (formerly known as Sayago & Pardon) USA and the Jorge Pérez Collection, USA.

Rodriguez-Graham's work is the result of an ongoing exploration of painting's inherent language; hoping to find the meeting point between the recognizable and the abstract. His work begins with the use of recognizable images as an armature upon which to place marks: traces of the event of painting. Together, these marks construct a figure that acts not as a replacement or stand-in of this initial figuration, but as a memory. A amalgamation between the translation of a recollection and the construction of something new.

Within his recent work, Rodriguez-Graham has tackled a group of paintings based on physical constructions; sculptures that present a purely painterly experience. Which upon being represented upon a canvas, suggest a new reality that presents a coexistence between the recognizable and the abstract.

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Arróniz emerged from a particular interest to work with a new generation of artists from Mexico and Latin America. Our main drive is to support and closely follow the careers of our artists both locally and internationally. A key element to our labor are the multiple exchanges with other galleries from other countries and participation in art fairs around the world.

Our local program is composed by exhibitions of our represented artists, and a parallel presentation in the projects room where a specific piece or project -created with the space in mind- is showed. This allows us to expand our cultural offer to new audiences while working in collaboration with other artists, curators and institutions.

Press Inquiries

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