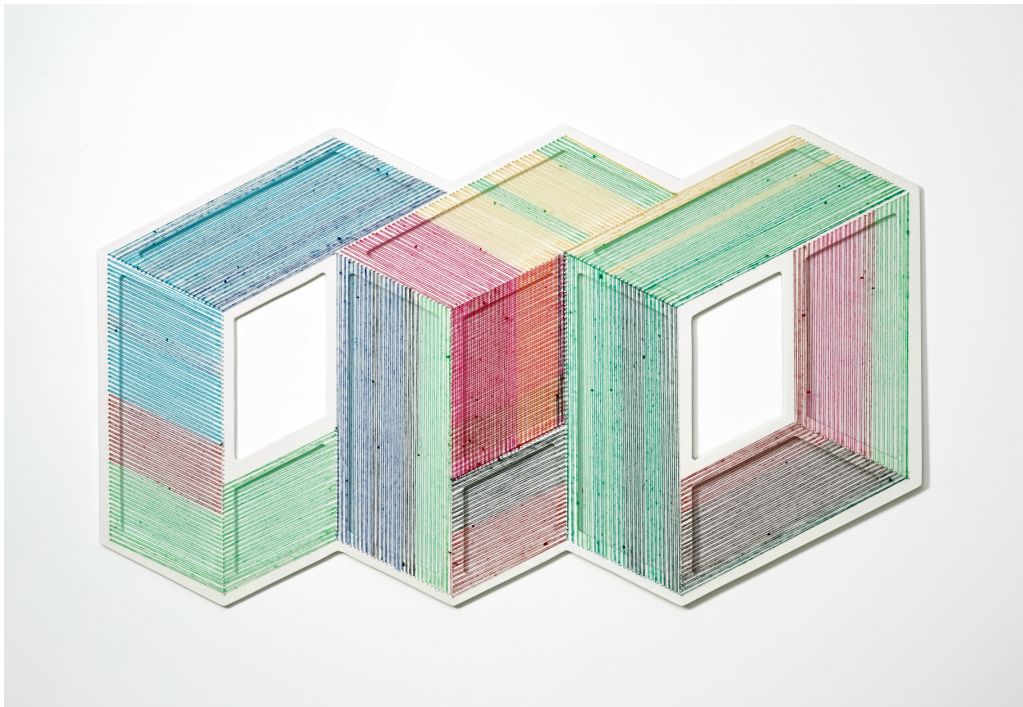


Adrian Esparza: Serape Thread Art

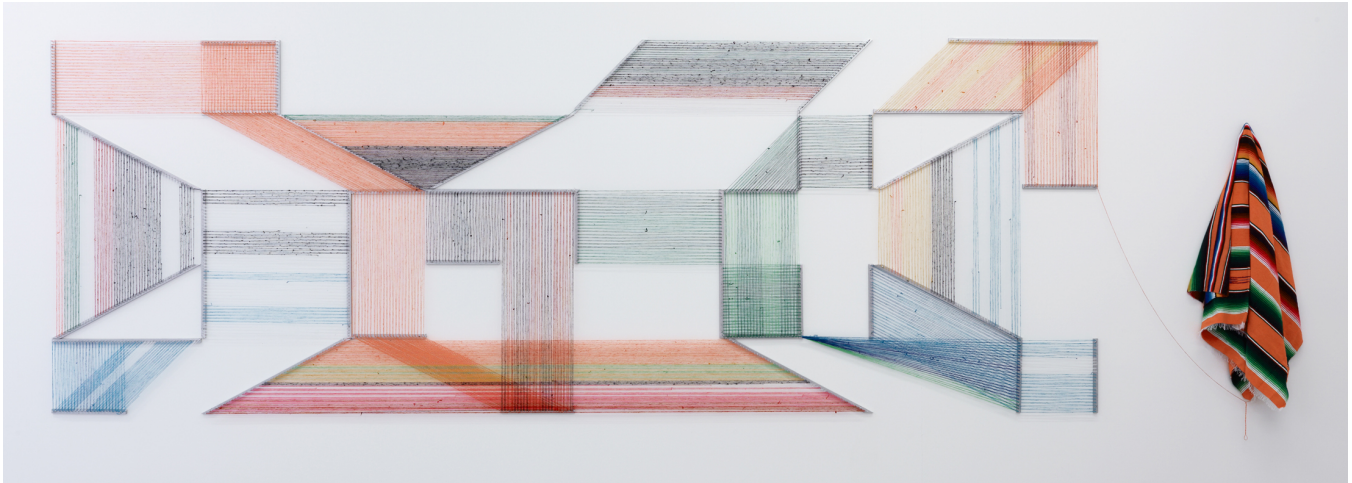


The bright colors and clean lines of Adrian Esparza’s sprawling installations are a fusion of thread art and culture. These geometric art installations are made from the threads of serape blankets, which Esparza utilizes as an homage to his life as a Mexican-American. We at DeNada greatly admire and identify with his decision to draw inspiration from his cultural identity, as heritage has been a vast source of vision for DeNada owner and designer and first-generation Peruvian, Virginia Arrisueño.

Artist Adrian Esparza uses his thread art as an autobiography and has referred to it as “an evolving self-portrait,” as it tells the story of his life as a Mexican-American in a Texan border town. Born and raised in the city of El Paso, Esparza received his Bachelor’s of Fine Arts from the University of Texas at El Paso and then received his Master’s of Fine Arts from the California Institute of the Arts. Esparza’s colorful installations have been featured across the United States from California to New

York, and overseas in exhibitions from Switzerland to Saudi Arabia. Recently, his thread art has been exhibited in the Whitechapel Gallery in London, the taubert contemporary in Berlin, and the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft in Texas. Esparza currently lives in El Paso where he continues to draw inspiration from his Mexican-American roots.





In his most well known installations, Esparza pulls the threads from serape blankets, the brightly colored traditional Mexican craft. Esparza uses the deconstructed serape blankets and weaves them between nails - either secured directly into the wall or into a wood background - to create simple but complex geometric patterns that reflect the design of the traditional serape blanket. By displacing the traditional serape blanket from its usual context, Esparza speaks to the culture shift that Mexican immigrants face. Beyond serape, Esparza has completed drawings and paintings encompassing the same style of the serape installations. His hypnotizing pieces go beyond physical materials to show his personal conflicts with cultural identity.

We at DeNada are greatly influenced by our background, and we have been inspired by Esparza's intense cultural pieces. At DeNada, our owner and designer Virginia Arrisueño's Peruvian heritage has molded many aspects of our knitwear. Esparza's vibrant installations are a provocative and stirring reminder of the impact of cultural displacement, formed in a bold and mesmerizing way.