



PRESS RELEASE

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November 12, 2020

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Exhibition Title: Ruben Nieto: *Cartouche*

Exhibition Dates: November 21, 2020 - January 2, 2021

Open House: Saturday, November 21st from 12pm – 4pm

Cris Worley Fine Arts is pleased to present our fifth solo exhibition of works by Dallas-based artist, Ruben Nieto. *Cartouche*, opens Saturday, November 21st, and will be on view through January 2nd, 2021. An Open House will be held at the gallery Saturday, November 21st, from 12 – 4pm with a limit of 10 visitors in the gallery at a time. Appointments for the Open House are not required but are strongly encouraged.

Ruben Nieto’s multi-disciplinary practice blends technology with printmaking and traditional painting techniques to create amalgamations of iconic imagery known as “comic abstractions.” The artist thoughtfully selects disparate fragments of printed source material, that are then digitally scanned, altered, and ultimately recontextualized, resulting in densely layered compositions. While Nieto’s oeuvre includes contemporary printing techniques on materials such as canvas, perforated vinyl and silk, these digital compositions most often serve as a template for the artist’s signature oil paintings.

This exhibition’s title, *Cartouche*, refers to the hieroglyphic, ornamental shields of Ancient Egypt which were known to honor Pharaohs, much like a royal coat of arms. This tradition of revering and immortalizing royal figures lends itself well to Nieto’s practice of honoring iconic cartoon characters from his own childhood.

The artist simultaneously honors his Mexican heritage by referencing the Ancient Mayan writing system, the glyphic cartouche, which utilized over 800 symbols to form words, sounds and concepts. Nieto continues to build upon the development of his own visual language by paying homage to iconic characters and artists in a distinctive, undulatory manner.

Says Nieto, “The influence of Pop Art and Abstract Expressionism are inherent in the facture of my work.”

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In the dynamic painting, *Mickey Musketeer with Pipe*, a frenetic abstracted figure is anchored by imagery that references iconic figures from the likes of both Walt Disney and Pablo Picasso. In more ambiguous works such as *Snow White*, Nieto strategically selects colors that unmistakably correlate to the work’s highly abstracted namesake.

Ruben Nieto was born in Veracruz, Mexico. He holds a BFA from the Universidad de Guanajuato and an MFA in Arts and Technology from The University of Texas at Dallas. Recently, Nieto was featured in *New American Paintings*, issue No. 114. Nieto has shown internationally in Switzerland, Germany, Spain, France, Canada, Mexico, and the U.S.

RUBEN NIETO IMAGES (also attached separately to email):



Ruben Nieto, *Mickey Musketeer with a Pipe*, 2020
oil on canvas, 75h x 50w in



Ruben Nieto, *Mickey Musketeer with a Pipe* (detail), 2020
oil on canvas, 75h x 50w in