



Human Rights Art Exhibition

Examining the intersection of art, human rights,
social justice and environmental issues

2020 biennial

Juror Statement

Juror's Statement

The 2020 Human Rights Art Exhibit was planned for a spring exhibit at College of the Sequoias in Visalia, California, but was ultimately held as a fully online virtual exhibit due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although I have plans to bring back future exhibits to physical spaces and gatherings, I was very pleased with the online exhibit and believe that it has provided greater important access for our community both to the artwork itself and to the topic of human rights at a time when so many of us are either housebound or putting our lives at risk to earn a living. I hope to promote the exhibition going forward as a larger online exhibit that will include a smaller juried physical exhibit as well as educational activities and guest speakers.

The call for art this year received nearly 350 submissions; this was the most in any single year since the first exhibit in 2007. The overall quality of work and variety of subject matter made it a difficult task to select the exhibit, and to decide on the four awards. Because of space and funding limitations, the Best of Show award is the only work that includes the artist statement in the print catalog. I do, however, encourage viewers to visit the exhibit website at humanrightsartexhibit.com to view the full exhibit. Artist statements are included in the thumbnail gallery section.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the financial support provided by College of the Sequoias, and the institution's ongoing work to support equity and diversity initiatives through the arts and other programming.

Richard Lubben, MFA
Academic Dean, College of the Sequoias
COS.edu

Best of Show: Teresa Hill

The works in one of my newest series of paintings are depictions of what it felt like to me to grow up in a community that did not see me as equal because of my skin color. I was born in SE Texas in the 1960 to a mixed-race couple; my mother is Mexican-American, my late father was Euro-American. The effects of racism reached beyond just the community in which my family lived in; it also pervaded the extended family circles. I was seen as too white by one side of the family tree, and too brown by the other side. I felt like a liminal person, with no true place in either culture.

It is my preference to let my paintings communicate with the viewer without my direction, but I'll share a little of my thoughts behind "Xochtiquetzal's Wisdom." It is my depiction of what it felt like to be brown while living in a mostly white American community during the 1960s and early '70s in Texas. The little brown girl (me) stands in (and stands out) a room of white. The pink hats represent the epitome of white femininity: pastel and sweet, uniformly embellished to meet the standard for a young girl in white American culture. The hats of the floor are all brown but vary in decoration; the variety of decor represents my perception of the vivid and rich heritage of the Mexican culture that is a part of my DNA but was not a part of what my parents considered to be "American," and therefore suppressed. The girl, with her hat behind her, stares at the wall wondering why only the pink hats hang on the wall. The shadow cast from her is that of Xochtiquetzal. Xochtiquetzal, who's name means "flower, precious feather" is the Aztec pantheon's goddess of fertility, beauty, desire and the female arts. I chose Xochtiquetzal as the girl's shadow to represent my Mexican heritage which can be seen in my physical appearance and that could not be white washed out, no matter how much I was steeped in Euro American culture. Xochtiquetzal's shadow shows the girl that her beautiful hat and the other brown hats on the floor are as worthy as the pink hats to grace the wall.

Best of Show: Teresa Hill



Teresa Hill
Xochtiquetzal's Wisdom
Oil on Canvas, 36X36"

Merit Award: Heidi Brueckner



Heidi Brueckner
Splot (from the Monsterbet series)
Oil, Acrylic & Mixed Media on Canvas, 16X16"

Merit Award: Kay Chernush



Kay Chernush
Lowest on the Foodchain
Digital pigment print, 36X40"

Merit Award: Myra Eastman



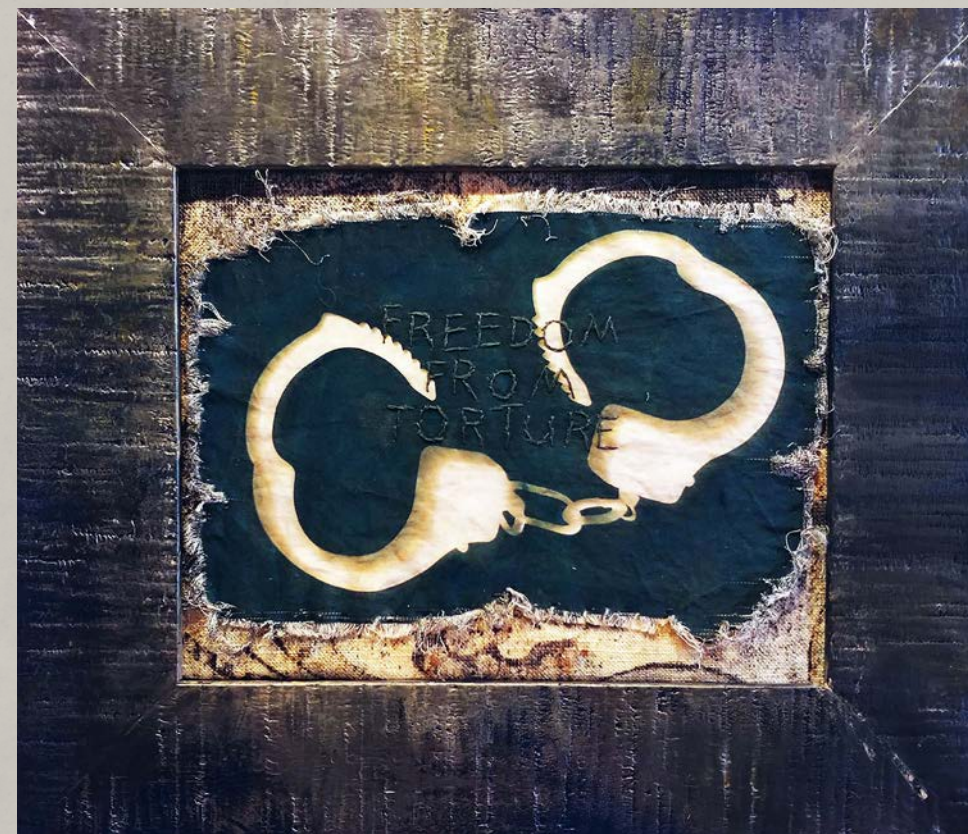
Myra Eastman
The Great Migration - El Salvador to Santa Cruz, Water Jugs
36x46"

Future Akins



Future Akins
Access to Healthcare
Cyanotypes with Embroidery, 18X24"

Future Akins



Future Akins
Freedom from Torture
Cyanotypes with Embroidery, 18X24"

Mardi de Veuve Alexis



Mardi de Veuve Alexis
Reaching for Freedom
Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas, 24X18"

Ramon Blanco Barrera (@233art)



Ramon Blanco Barrera (@233art)
Happiness in Hell
Digital print on foam board, 30 x 20 cm

Mie Preckler & Pamela Blotner



Mie Preckler & Pamela Blotner (Artists Beyond Boundaries)
Água por Debajo
Giclee Print & Carved & Painted Wood, 30X24"

Jim Boden



Jim Boden
Border Control
Mixed Media, 17X15"

Eva Camacho



Eva Camacho
The Scars we Carry: Border Scars
Wet felting, 30X23X1

Krista Fay



Krista Fay
Alysia's Wall
Oil on Canvas, 37X37"

Eric J. Garcia



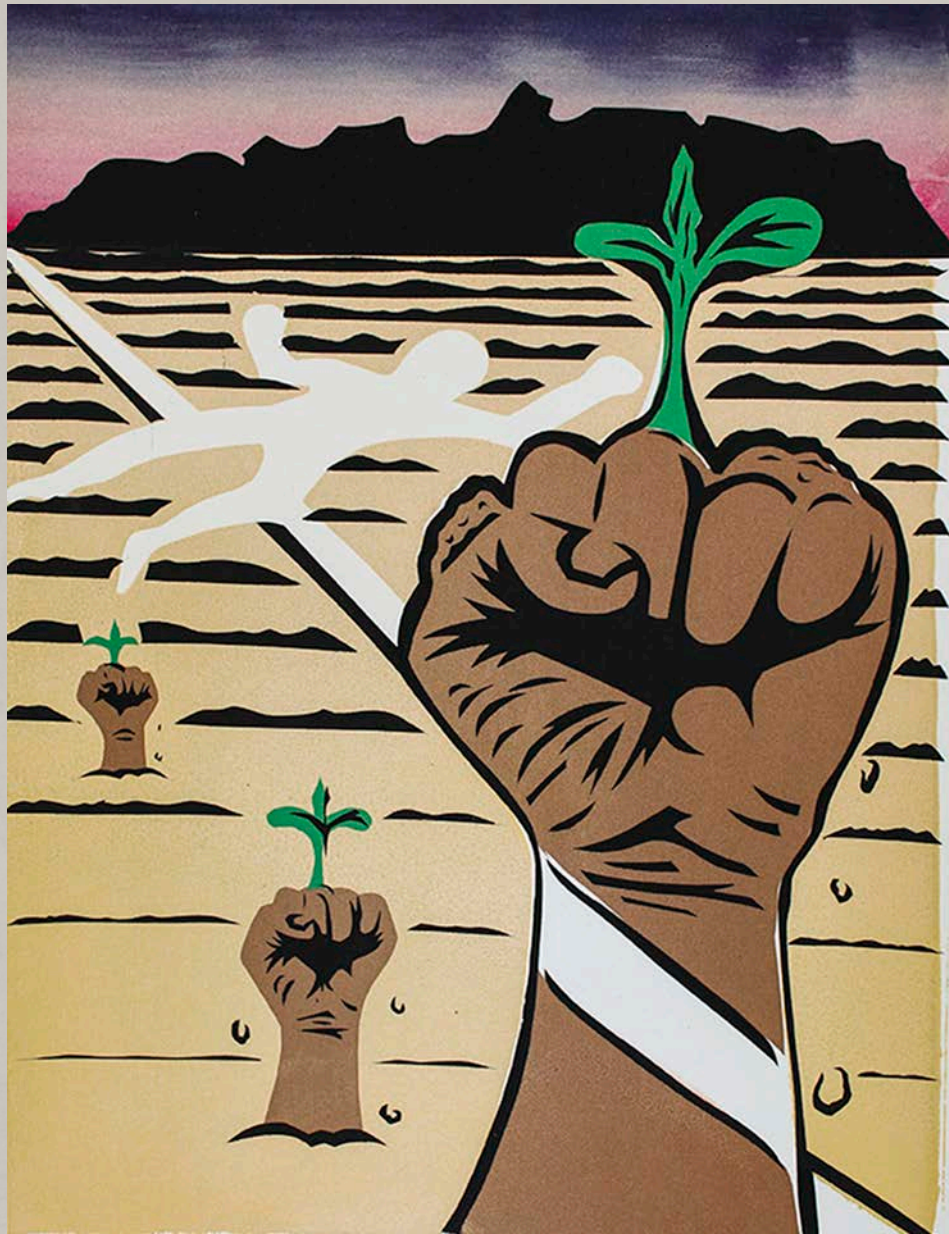
Eric J. Garcia
Pacha Mama Strikes Back
Lithograph, 15X11"

Kim Garretson



Kim Garretson
\$63 Billion
Assemblage, 30X15X12"

Brandy González



Brandy González
This Land is My Land
Screenprint, 11X7"

Lynne Green



Lynne Green
Welcome Home
Photography, 10X8"

Jose Guerrero



Jose Guerrero
Popeye the Veteran
Lithograph on Cotton Paper, 8X7"

Kristy Higby



Kristy Higby
Standing on a Carbon Bomb & Polar Caps
Mixed Media-Concept Jewelry/brooches

Tatana Kellner



Tatana Kellner
Please Exit, Doors Are Closing
Monoprint, 19X13”

Rusty Leffel



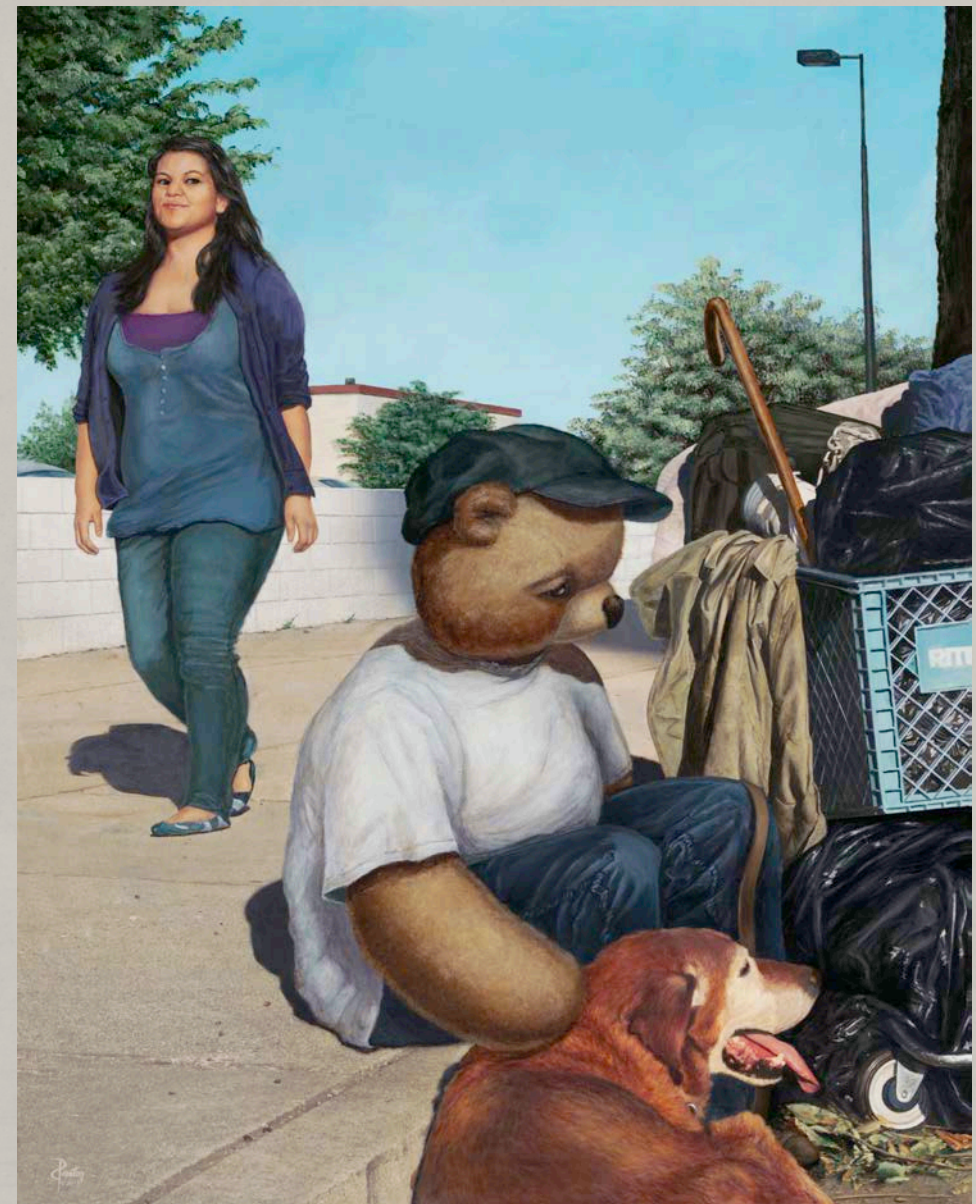
Rusty Leffel
Be Kind/Kansas City
Photograph, 20X16”

Nelson Munares



Nelson Munares
This is not a pipeline 7
Digital Collage, 20X15"

Craig Preston



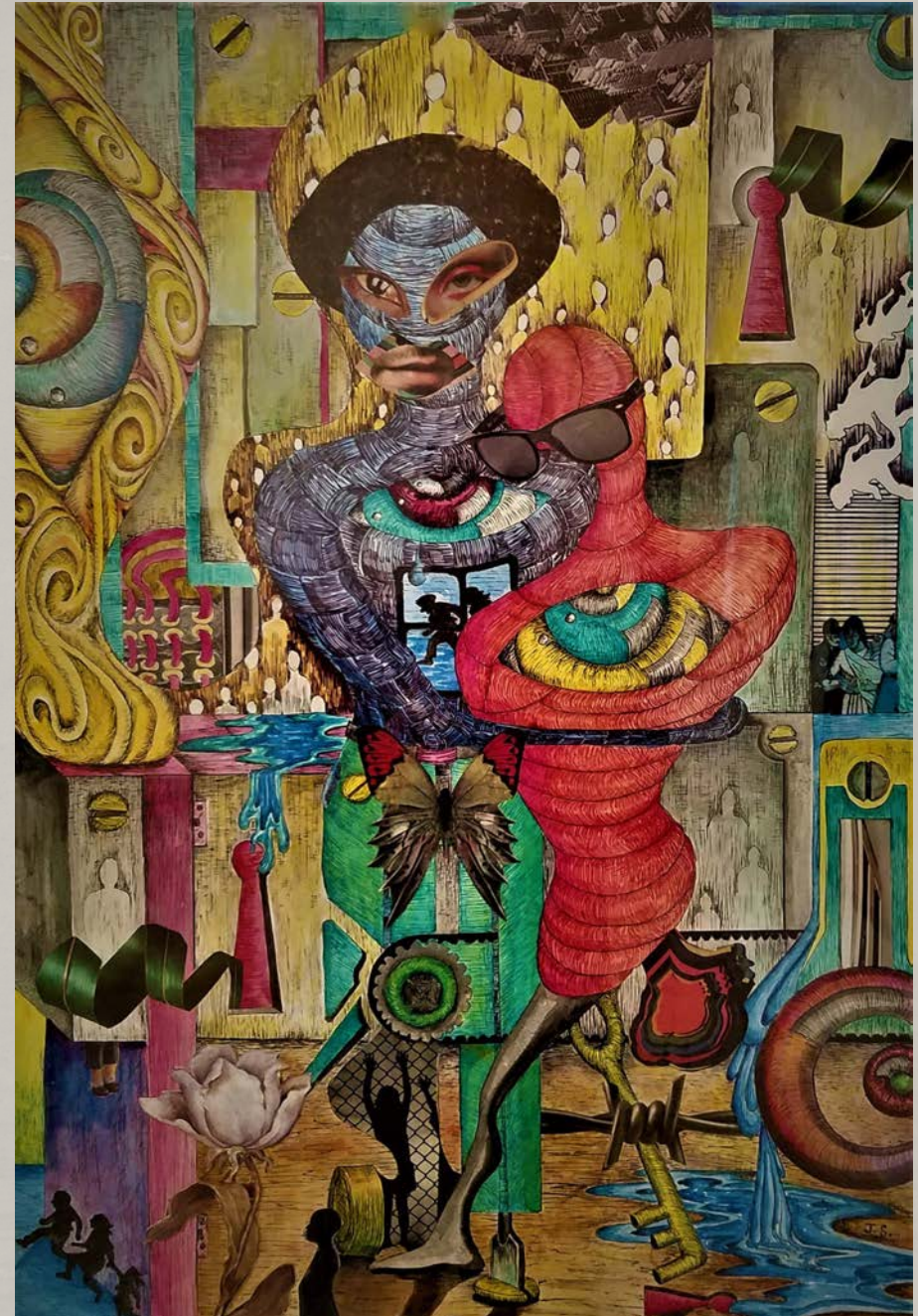
Craig Preston
Homeless Teddy
Acrylic, 28X22"

Willie Pugh



Willie Pugh
The Offering
Photography, 12X15"

Juan Saenz



Juan Saenz
The Reality Then and Now
Mixed Media, 36X24"

Sudi Sharafshahi



Sudi Sharafshahi
War: Humanity in Exile
Acrylic on Canvas, 60X72"

Denise Shaw



Denise Shaw
Child Interrupted
Acrylic and Pastel with College on Canvas, 22X30"

Andra Stanton

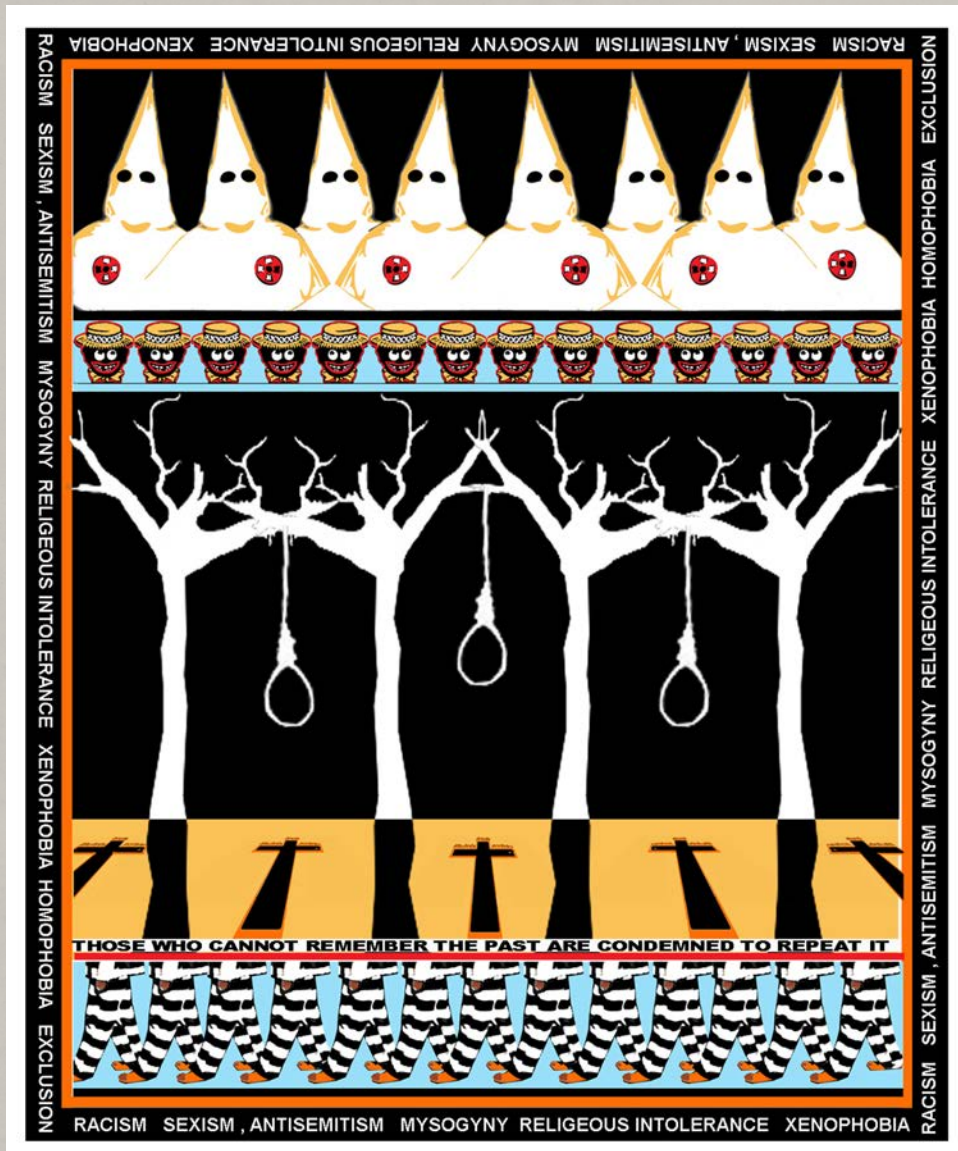
Margi Weir



Andra Stanton
Alone Together
Hang-dyed fabric, silk cocoons and beads, 3X6X6"

Margi Weir
At the Border
Digital Print

Margi Weir



Fotios Zemenides



Margi Weir
Justice in America – Remember the Past
Digital Print

Fotios Zemenides
20th Century Ink
Mixed-media on paper



<http://www.humanrightsexhibit.com>