



## Juan Morales

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Website:

<https://www.desertgrit.com/>

Juan Morales was raised in the South Valley of Albuquerque. He was born shortly after his parents emigrated from Northern Mexico in search of opportunity for their growing family. Juan was the second born out of three children. From an early age he noticed the writing on the wall, but (like many) he did not understand it: or the significance it would ultimately have on his existence. Graffiti would be the catalyst to ignite his unrelenting need to create. It would become the educational foundation on which he would build his skills as a painter.

Now he makes paintings, drawings and mixed media artworks. By exploring the concept of landscape in a nostalgic way, Morales focuses on the idea of 'public space' and more specifically on spaces where anyone can do anything at any given moment: the non-private space, the non-privately-owned space, space that is economically uninteresting. This includes the object typically found with in this space, the discarded and forgotten.

His paintings are based on formal associations which open a unique poetic vein. Multi-layered images arise in which the fragility and instability of our seemingly certain reality is questioned. By questioning the concept of movement, he tries to approach a wide scale of subjects in a multi-layered way; he likes to involve the viewer in a way that is sometimes physical and believes in the idea of function following form in a work.

His works directly respond to the surrounding environment and use every day experiences from the artist as a starting point. Often these are framed instances that would go unnoticed in their original context. With a conceptual approach, he investigates the dynamics of landscape, including the manipulation of its effects and the limits of spectacle based on our assumptions of what landscape means to us. Rather than presenting a factual reality, an illusion is fabricated to conjure the realms of our imagination.

His works isolate the movements of humans and objects. By doing so, new sequences are created which reveal an inseparable relationship between motion and human perception. In a search for new methods to his creative process, he finds that movement reveals an inherent connection between creation and destruction. Ultimately resulting in the continuing notion of equivalent exchange to achieve balance within a piece.

His works are often about contact with architecture and basic living elements. Energy (heat, light, and water), space and landscape are examined in less obvious ways and sometimes developed in unorthodox ways. Juan Morales currently lives and works in Los Lunas, New Mexico. Here he continues the endless pursuit of mastery as a painter and artist.



*Fiestas by Juan Morales*