

The Joan Hisaoka Healing Arts Gallery presents:
Aceptar Una Exposicion Colectiva
Curated by Irene Clouthier

Featuring artwork by Erick Antonio Benitez, Gerardo Camargo,
Irene Clouthier, Hoesy Corona and Muriel Hasbun, Carolina
Mayorga, Wilfredo Valladares and Fabiola Alvarez Yurcisin

September 2020 – December 2020

A virtual opening reception will be hosted on
Friday, September 25th 6:30pm – 8:00pm.
Registration is required.

Acceptance is a part of life. It is part of what makes us human. We accept and make choices every day of our lives. *Aceptar* creates a dialogue between the artist and the viewer about the ways we accept a new reality through the ups and downs and our immigration and identity experiences as artists. More specifically, we explore how eight artists adapted and merged existing cultures to create a new hybrid cultural identity.

This exhibition represents diversity in the immigration experience; examining the struggles and extraordinary efforts to permanently move to another country with dreams, traditions, and cultures ingrained, and to become immersed in a new life. The eight artists featured here have all had to adapt to a different language and find a separate identity. Each day as immigrants and Americans, we work to accept our new circumstances, and we look to the millions who have come before us who have enriched the tapestry of this country.

Some of the artists here present their personal identity that shows us the intricacy and complexity of heritage. Other artists work on de parallelism or the creation of a new national symbol. While still other works address immigration status and remind us to see humans as humans. Another artist builds a column made of recycled food trays that contain remnants of moments, sharing in a group, joy, and community. One artist addresses identity by calling upon childhood memories of his home and family. We also present artworks that address the domestic violence, child abuse and sexual assault faced by women and families fleeing these circumstances in their native countries, only to face the same dangers on their journeys to the United States.

With *Aceptar*, we hope to highlight diversity in our immigration stories and open a dialogue about race, inclusion, class disparity, and gender equality. In order to create change, we must keep these conversations alive and strong. *Aceptar* is a reminder of the essence of this nation, a nation of immigrants, and allows us to imagine the kind of society we want to live in, one with a better future for all. We believe that art has the power to unite us.

This exhibition is supported by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

Curator and artist, Irene Clouthier was a 2019-2020 Honorable Mention at the IV Valencia Biennial in Spain. Erick Benitez is the 2019 Sondheim Artscape Prize Winner and a 2020 Trawick Prize Finalist. Hoesy Corona and Muriel Hasbun are both 2020 Sondheim Artscape Prize Finalists as well as 2019 Trawick Prize Finalists.

Contact: Lindsey Yancich, Gallery Manager, Lindsey@smithcenter.org or visit www.joanhisaokagallery.org

(Image: Erick Antonio Benitez, The Secret Life of Plants Series)



