

Manos Artist Biographies

Kiara Aileen Machado

Kiara Aileen Machado was born in 1993 in Lynwood, California. She received her BFA with honors in Painting and Drawing from California State University Long Beach in 2018. Machado's cultural background as Guatemalan and Salvadoran is central to her work. Through this cultural framework, her work explores the complexities of intersecting identities and Central American diasporas in Southern California.

Her body of work brings into question the absence and exclusion of Central American folx from mainstream U.S. and Latinx narratives. Mainly working with oil on canvas, Machado combines cultural imagery and a diverse selection of plants with a vivid color palette. She obscures and camouflages the figures into the surrounding environment to create a narrative that highlights marginalized communities.

Machado has exhibited work throughout Southern California, including Los Angeles, Long Beach, Hollywood, Pomona, Highland Park, Compton, Baldwin Park, Irvine, San Pedro, and Playa Vista. Her work has also reached venues beyond California, including, University of Central Florida in Orlando, Florida and Frederic Jameson Gallery at Duke University in North Carolina. Her work has also been recognized internationally as part of "Art Without Borders" in Florence, Italy. Machado's artist-activist ethic has also recently motivated her participation in a collaborative mural with Central American migrants at the border wall between Tijuana and San Diego with the collective, Quetzal Migrante. She now lives and works out of San Gabriel Valley.

Jose Flores Nava

José Flores Nava is a Southern California based artist. He was born in Mexico and moved to California at age 12. While interest in the visual arts came at an early age, it was not until college that he decided to pursue art as a field of study. Using a combination of ceramic hand building techniques, slip cast objects, and brightly colored surface treatments, he creates sculptures that are reflections of the undocumented immigrant community. He focuses on the relationship between the undocumented community, products of labor and familiar objects that we often take for granted. The sculptures are sometimes nested in forms associated with outdoor utilitarian needs, as well as nested in domestic vessels' consisting of platters and bowls. Echoing the commercial phrase "farm-to-table," Nava's work asks the viewer to consider not only the means that sustain our society, but also, the individuals whose labor said society depends on. Jose Flores Nava holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Master of Fine Arts from California State University Fullerton. He is a DACA recipient and is currently pursuing a career as

a teacher. Places he has exhibited include, Grand Central Art Center, Irvine Fine Arts Center, the American Museum of Ceramic Art, Riverside Art Museum, Brea Gallery, ALMA'S RVA, Eutectic Gallery, and Norther Clay Center.