

For Immediate Release
October 18, 2012

LUIS G. HERNANDEZ: 'VARIANTES' AT RAFFMA

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. — “Variantes” provides an inside look at the subtly and playfully provocative aspects of Luis G. Hernandez’s artwork.

“Variantes” is part of a greater art exhibition, “PERSPECTIVES,” on display at RAFFMA, Cal State San Bernardino’s Robert and Frances Fullerton Museum of Art through Dec. 15.

The exhibit was part of CSUSB’s observance of Hispanic Heritage Month, which the university celebrated through Oct. 15.

The “PERSPECTIVES” exhibition, curated by Eva Kirsch, features four other artists – Linda Vallejo, David Rosales, Kathy Sosa, and Gregg Stone – each of them in a solo exhibition with its own title.

“Variantes” will present variants of old works and some new works – all text based, ranging from precise and meticulously executed hand-made drawings and paintings to vinyl text works produced at a print shop.

Hernandez questions established viewpoints and common opinions – constantly inviting the viewer to play with multiple layers of meanings. In its most obvious layer, the title refers to the selection of variants of previously exhibited works included in the exhibition, but there is much more to it.

Without being overtly political, or associated with any particular viewpoint, Hernandez persistently draws attention to the complicated narratives of the immigrant community. Admitting the complexity and difficulty of dealing with the immigrant issues, Hernandez doesn’t criticize, doesn’t offer solutions or agitate. Instead, he suggests the complexity and the difficulty of dealing with them, inviting viewers into an open, though potentially painful or even impossible, conversation.

His work, “Understanding the Immigrant Situation,” is a labor-intensive drawing in which Hernandez superimposes each letter that forms the title of the artwork, resulting in a non-legible text work that visually recalls minimalism or suprematism.

“The work reminds us of the intricacies and complexities of things and ideas, and of the impossibility to grasp them in their entirety,” says Eva Kirsch, RAFFMA director. “This is especially true when dealing with issues of the day, where events continuously unfold, making them even more unpredictable and uncertain.”

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About the Artist

Hernandez received his B.A. from Cal State Long Beach, followed by an M.F.A. from Otis College of Art in 2003. He lives and works mostly in L.A., but lives also in Mexicali. He is the youngest of the five artists in "PERSPECTIVES."

Rooted in the experiences of being raised in cities throughout Baja and Southern California, Hernandez's mixed media, text and performance-based works and projects are conceptual, pliable, and always challenging to the viewer. He enjoys a patient yet persistent exploration of semantic and communication-related ambiguities, gray areas and spaces in between.

With a continuous interest in border issues, Hernandez co-founded the MexiCali Biennial in 2006. "[It's] a non-profit providing exposure to artists and locations often overlooked in the contemporary arts of Southern California and Mexico," says Hernandez. "The organization came out of an ambitious DIY approach needing to bring a new context to artists working together, across national and racial divisions, and it remains to serve not only as a curatorial/art project, but also as a satirical platform as it pokes fun at the abundance of biennials around the globe and their impact on the art community."

About RAFFMA

The Robert and Frances Fullerton Museum of Art is a nationally recognized museum accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. It is the only accredited art museum in San Bernardino. Located at Cal State San Bernardino, RAFFMA has accumulated a permanent collection of nearly 1,200 objects focusing on Egyptian antiquities, ceramics and contemporary art.

General admission to the museum is free. Suggested donation is \$3. Parking at Cal State San Bernardino is \$5 per vehicle.

The museum is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and is closed Friday and Sunday. For more information, call (909) 537-7373 or visit the RAFFMA website at <http://raffma.csusb.edu>.

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