

For Immediate Release

The 99%: Recent Works by Albert Alvarez, Jodi Bonassi, and José Lozano
Curated by David S. Rubin

Mash Gallery, April 4 – May 9, 2020

Press Preview: Thursday, April 2, 10 am

Opening Reception: Saturday, April 4, 7-10 pm

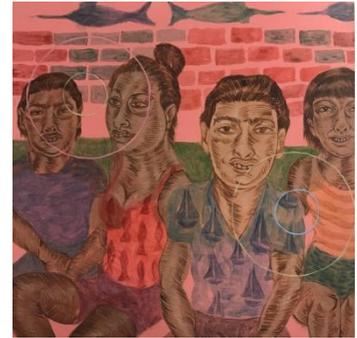
Gallery Talk (Curator and Artists): Sunday April 5, 2-4 pm



Albert Alvarez, *The Incredulity of Man*, 2019, acrylic on panel, 11 x 14 in.



Jodi Bonassi, *Chicken and Donuts*, 2019, oil on canvas, 48 x 72 in.



José Lozano, *Seismic Lounge*, 2019, acrylic on panel, 10 x 10 in.

Mash Gallery is pleased to present **“The 99%: Recent Works by Albert Alvarez, Jodi Bonassi, and José Lozano.”** Curated by veteran curator **David S. Rubin**, the exhibition showcases works by three artists who are keen observers of everyday life. Rarely without their sketchbooks, Bonassi and Alvarez both record their observations of strangers by drawing while riding public transit. Their sketches are then used as points of departure for painting or drawing skillfully crafted, highly detailed fantasy narratives. Although Lozano works largely from his own imagination, he bases many of his figures on people observed at laundromats, grocery stores, parties, and on the streets of his Mexican-American neighborhood.

Alvarez’s paintings and drawings scrutinize the dark side, which he interprets in disturbing narratives on such topics as boredom, alcoholism, and domestic violence, often combining caricatures of neighborhood locals with familiar pop culture or religious figures. Alvarez considers his paintings and drawings to be contemporary morality tales. “I see these kinds of dystopian narratives all the time in television, movies, and video games,” he explains, so, “my paintings function in a similar way. They can entertain us while showing us how not to behave, hopefully encouraging us to become better people.”

Bonassi’s paintings, by contrast, tend to be hopeful and optimistic, as her goal is to celebrate the humanity of people seen on the Metro or in neighborhood barbershops, malls, and cafes. Bonassi has commented, “The rich cultural diversity of Los Angeles and its surrounding areas is a sweet reminder that we are all here together. Inclusion and diversity, necessary freedoms that are hard won, add to the rich cultural hybridity of the times. Even as I paint the monsters hidden on the canvas, I must remain hopeful. There is always dark and light together but I force myself to see the light.”

Lozano’s works are neither pessimistic nor optimistic. Rather, he sees his art as a vehicle for understanding the culture that he was born into. According to Lozano, “I can’t say I’m speaking for Latinx culture, I’m speaking to the world through it. These are my generic existential Mexicans whom I’ve been trying to figure out, but have not been able to. Each drawing and painting is an attempt at it.”

According to Rubin, “The exhibition celebrates the art of three extraordinary artists with vivid imaginations, who create detailed fantasy narratives that examine human nature and culture from differing perspectives—hopeful, cynical, and objective. Collectively, they reveal the many faces of everyday people, the so-called 99%.”

About the Artists

Albert Alvarez has been actively exhibiting since 2006. He has had four solo exhibitions and his work has been included in more than 20 group exhibitions, among them “Psychedelic: Optical and Visionary Art since the 1960s” at the San Antonio Museum of Art in 2010 and “Right Here, Right Now: San Antonio” at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston in 2018. Alvarez’s art is represented in the collections of the San Antonio Museum of Art and the City of San Antonio. A native of San Antonio, Texas, Alvarez holds a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design.

Jodi Bonassi has been actively exhibiting since 1994. She has had solo exhibitions at California State University Northridge, Coagula Curatorial, and other venues including a 2018 retrospective at The Museum of the San Fernando Valley. Her work has been featured in more than 100 group exhibitions, including the 2019 Jerusalem Biennial. Bonassi’s art is represented in the collections of California State University Northridge and The Museum of the San Fernando Valley. A Los Angeles native, Bonassi holds a BA from California State University, Northridge.

José Lozano is recognized as one of the principal figures in the Los Angeles Latinx art scene. Actively exhibiting since 1987, he has had solo exhibitions at the Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, the Lancaster Museum of Art and History, and five other venues. His work has been included in over 40 group exhibitions. Lozano has participated in the serigraph atelier projects at Self-Help Graphics and his public art projects include the L.A. Metro Loteria at La Brea/Jefferson Station and a mural for La Plaza Village in downtown Los Angeles. His most recent children’s book, *Little Chanclas*, was awarded the best bilingual picture book by the Latino Book Awards Association. Lozano’s art is represented in the collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and Cheech Marin. A native of Los Angeles who spent his early childhood in Juarez, Mexico before returning to settle in Orange County, Lozano holds BA, MA, and MFA degrees from California State University, Fullerton.

About the Curator

David S. Rubin is a curator, art critic, and artist. His curatorial archives are housed in the Smithsonian Institution’s Archives of American Art. Rubin held curatorial positions at Scripps College and Pomona College, Santa Monica College, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Albright College, MOCA Cleveland, Phoenix Art Museum, Contemporary Arts Center New Orleans, and San Antonio Museum of Art. In 1996 he was the U.S. Commissioner for the Cuenca Bienal of Painting in Ecuador. As an art critic, Rubin has written for *Arts Magazine*, *Art in America*, *Visual Art Source*, *Fabrik*, *Art and Cake*, and other art journals. He has published numerous books and catalogs in conjunction with exhibitions. As an artist, Rubin is known for automatic drawing. His drawings are in the collections of the Ogden Museum of Southern Art and the Bradbury Art Museum at Arkansas State University. A native of Los Angeles, Rubin holds a BA in Philosophy from UCLA and an MA in Art History from Harvard University.

About Mash Gallery

Founded by Haleh Mashian, **Mash Gallery** is a contemporary art gallery located in the downtown Los Angeles Arts District. Collaborating with independent curators and artists to manifest their visions, Mash actively contributes to the Los Angeles arts culture with thought-provoking thematic exhibitions. The venue is designed to create intimate conversations between its curators, exhibiting artists, and Los Angeles art audiences. Unlike most commercial galleries, Mash Gallery does not represent individual artists. Rather, Mash's programming follows the model of museums and non-profits by offering an ever-changing rotation of carefully curated exhibitions, an approach that is relatively new territory for a commercial venue. Mash Gallery strives to present exhibitions that are robust, compelling, and relevant.

For more information

Mash Gallery

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