

RITUAL UNKNOWING

CURATED BY BLUE REINHARD & JAMIE MARTINEZ

FEATURING WORKS BY

Blue Reinhard

Genesis Andrade

Jamie Martinez

John Flores

Pamela Ramos

'Ritual Unknowing' engages with the liminal spaces found at the edges of our comprehensive views of the world. The work considers what is lost when we try to define these boundaries through language, and what sacred meanings can arise through nonverbal engagement with the Unknown. By externalizing this notion of sacrality of the Unknown, rituals are created - whether consciously or intuitively. 'Ritual Unknowing' considers the act of creating an art object as a key example of ritual externalization of the Unknown. The visual art object thus becomes akin to a votive object, having the capacity to lead us into the realm of the divine, the mystic, and the abject by providing a framework for nonverbal understanding that we can engage with subliminally, emotionally, and corporeally.

If the art object can be seen as votive, placing such an object within the gallery recontextualizes the consumerist space as one to engage with the spiritual, while the gallery's commodification of the art object complicates the spiritual value of the work. Viewers are led into a fraught relationship with the work, as both worshiper and consumer. This tension between constructed quantitative value of the commodified art object and the subjective value of the spiritually-imbibed art ritual is at play, allowing viewers to determine the value of the works themselves. Each piece individually and uniquely reckons with the artists' systems of understanding, with each work engaging in interrelated conversations around meaning-making, ritual acts, value, and transformation.



AVENUE 50 STUDIO

131 North Avenue 50, Highland Park, CA 90042

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'Ritual Unknowing' Price List



Blue Reinhard *Lamentation?*

Oil on found object, 2024
30" x 60"

\$2000



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Genesis Andrade
Vanessa

Oil on canvas, 2024

3' x 2'

\$2700



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Genesis Andrade

La Virgen 1 & 2

(Sold as a Pair)

Oil on canvas, 2023

3' x 1.5' each

\$2300



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Jamie Martinez
maelstrom

Mixed Media (wax, plaster, seashells, wood, motor, glass),
2024

10" x 10" x 5"

\$500



John Flores
Altar

Ceramic & glaze, 2024

16" x 17" x 3"

\$2000



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John Flores

New Places, New Faces (seed pod #5)

Ceramic & glaze, 2024

13" x 8" x 8"

\$1200



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Pamela Ramos
Thong Archive

Thongs, Ziploc Bags, Text, 2024
Dimensions Variable

\$150 per thong



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Blue Reinhard

Blue Claire Reinhard is a painter, sculptor, and installation artist based in Los Angeles, California. His oil paintings explore religious histories and spiritual practices alongside queer expression, honoring moments of tenderness as sacred. By inviting viewers to activate sculptures, images, and texts through participation, Blue explores how collective rituals cultivate intimacy. Often working with interview-based inquiry, Blue's work engages with conversation, story-telling, and oral tradition as ways to mythologize moments of daily life. Additionally, his work as a curator and arts educator are intertwined with his artistic practice. Arts education is an extension of the participatory aspect of his practice, while his curation work imagines how different bodies of work can inform and complicate one another.

Genesis Andrade

Genesis Andrade is a multidisciplinary artist from Queens, New York currently based in Los Angeles. They work primarily in oil portraiture- the themes of their work being cultural objects and ideas of affection, Latinx identity, and joy. The pieces featured in the show include popular patterns, cult images, and palettes reminiscent of Latin-American cultural aesthetics in an attempt to conjure a sense of home and/or belonging and/or community.

Jamie Martinez

Jamie Martinez is a sculptural artist and community arts worker born in Boston, MA and based in Los Angeles. The tactile and animated nature of their work invites the viewer to engage with the work beyond the theoretical, instead regarding the art object as a dynamic entity taking on the qualities of the ideas it represents. Through their work, Jamie aims to provoke critical engagement



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with the systematic structures that prop up our world by transgressing their boundaries, thereby working in the spaces between binary ideological constructions.

maelstrom seeks to participate in discussions surrounding 'natural' processes: the construction of what is natural vs. unnatural, mechanization of a 'natural' process (here, turning shells to sand), human involvement in 'natural' processes, constructions of natural vs. unnatural materials, etc.

John Flores

I am a contemporary ceramic artist that lives and works in Yucca Valley, California. My work revolves around a notion of sacredness that I associate with our natural world. An interconnectedness between all living things on the planet, each one sharing a universal experience of change and transition. These notions are always at the core of my art and literally embody the visual stylization of my work. With sculptures that often depict plant-like forms combined with humanistic elements, I am reinforcing the existence of those shared experiences. Using my imagery as a foundation to build off of, I will then plug in everyday life experiences, adding another layer to the work while simultaneously turning it into a narrative that often tells a story. Stories that often embody celebrations of life, death, ephemerality, and transformation.

John Flores is a contemporary ceramic artist who lives and works in Yucca Valley, California. He acquired a BFA with a focus in Ceramics at California State University Fullerton in 2019. John's work revolves around a notion of sacredness that he associates with the natural world, an interconnectedness between all living things. Those notions embody the visual stylization of Flores' work, with sculptures that often depict botanical forms combined with humanistic elements. Using his imagery as a foundation, John will weave in everyday life experiences, turning every sculpture into a narrative. Telling stories of shared



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experiences that often deal with changes and transitions in life. John uses traditional clay hand building techniques, combined with a contemporary use of glazing applications. Using an airbrush as a primary means of glazing, he layers colors to achieve gradients that blend into one another, often highlighting the textures found on the surface of the works. With the ever-growing crisis and endangerment to our planet, John's work is pivotal in creating a sense of respect, admiration and connectedness to our natural world.

Pamela Ramos

Pamela Ramos (b. 1995, Oaxaca, México) is an artist living and working in Los Angeles. Through her work, Ramos depicts and aims to demystify set definitions of the self and the other. Past narratives of power and conflict are recurring topics in her work with which she aims to reclaim authorship and defy cultural expectations. Using ethnically recognizable materials and spaces she confronts the limitations of identity and the physicality of photography.