

## Artist Statement

History is subjective; there are so many blurred lines and so much distortion. Context and point of view are very important; one person's hero is another person's villain...it depends on who tells the story. As a gay Mexican-American I have always felt excluded and under-represented by history. By using a historical context as a backdrop for my work, I can reweave these "lessons" of the past. My work is an attempt to make our already complicated history even more complicated. The more layers that I present, the closer I can get to something that might resemble truth.

My process for creating the work is labor intensive; the work is very precise and graphic, and has often been mistaken for silk-screens or digital prints. In fact, the work is meticulously hand-painted with acrylic on Mylar. Upon careful inspection, viewers can see the buildup of tiny brushstrokes and my hand and process in creating the paintings.

Throughout my work are themes of identity; I am interested in challenging traditional ideas of race and sexual orientation. I feel compelled to make thoughtful and beautiful work that confronts societal assumptions and gives new insight into our human experience. My artwork addresses a personal quest for heroism and bravery as well as a need to define my place in the world.