

Zeke Peña

United States b. 1983 Las Cruces, NM

Statement

I'm a cartoonist, an illustrator and a painter working on the US/MX frontera in El Paso, Tejas. My interdisciplinary work explores universal themes of identity, politics, ecology and social justice by remixing contemporary and historical narratives. My process is informed by extensive research, community engagement and historical methodology. I'm self taught in the studio but went to school for Art History + Visual Studies at UT Austin. I use a mezcla of new media and traditional techniques to tell stories that are influenced by cartoons, border culture and indigenous iconography. I use the accessible medium of comics to engage with complex issues with satire and comedy. I'm interested in subverting American history and reclaiming stories that were burned by colonialism; resistencia one cartoon at a time.

My illustrations and cartoons have appeared on album and book covers, in editorials and comics, and as graphics for community organizing. I recently finished *Photographic: The Life of Graciela Iturbide* (Getty Publishing, 2018), a graphic biography about the Mexican photographer with author Isabel Quintero. My work has been exhibited at Rose Gallery for Pacific Standard Time LA/LA (2017) as well as galleries and museums across the country. I'm a recipient of the Stan Lee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Arts Excellence Endowment (2016), Santa Fe Arts Institute - Arts Residency (2015), MCAD/NEA Artist Incubator Grant (2013, 2015), Siqueiros-Pollock Concurso Binacional Fronterizo de Pintura y Dibujo (2017) and I'm a Working Classroom Artist Resident (2017). My work is included in collections at National Museum of Mexican Art - Chicago, El Paso Museum of Art, National Hispanic Cultural Center- Albuquerque and several Private collections of American and Chicano art.

CV

EDUCATION

BA Art History/Visual Studies - University of Texas at Austin, *Ampla Cum Laude* - 2005

Focus: U.S./MX Border & Southwest Region, Indigenous Art, Chicana/o Art, Women/Gender Studies, Film Studies

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 | Photographic - Rose Gallery. Santa Monica, CA.
- 2017 | La Frontera - University of Texas El Paso Centennial Museum. El Paso, TX.
- 2017 | Siqueros-Pollock Concurso Binacional Fronterizo de Pintura y Dibujo Centro Civico - Ciudad Juárez, Chih. MX
- 2017 | Future Now/Futuro Ahora - Loisaida Art Center. Harlem, NY.
- 2017 | 6th Annual Chicana/o Biennial - MACLA. San Jose, CA.
- 2017 | Amexican@ - Gravelmouth Gallery, San Antonio, TX.
- 2017 | Bravo/Grande - Roswell Museum and Art Center. Roswell, NM.
- 2016 | Reclaim - Rubin Center for Visual Arts. El Paso, TX.
- 2016 | Aztlán, the Permanent Collection and Beyond - Riverside Museum of Art, Riverside, CA.
- 2016 | Amexican@ - Mexic-Arte Museum of Art, Austin, TX.
- 2016 | Welcome! - CAL State - Fine Arts Gallery - Los Angeles, CA.
- 2016 | House On Mango St.: Artist Interpret Community. - HCC, ABQ., NM curated by NMMA Chicago, IL.
- 2016 | Visions From the Inside - Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art - Peekskill, NY.
- 2016 | LA/SA - Gravelmouth Gallery, San Antonio, TX.
- 2016 | Immigration & Citizenship - Idyllwild Arts Exhibition Center, Idyllwild, CA.
- 2016 | Desert Triangle Carpeta - El Paso Museum of Art, El Paso, TX.
- 2015 | La Muerte Niña - National Museum of Mexican Art. Chicago, IL.
- 2015 | Return of the Souls - Self Help Graphics Gallery. Los Angeles, CA.
- 2015 | Agua/Frontera - Juárez Contemporary Gallery. Juárez, Chih., Mexico.
- 2015 | Comics With A Conscience - Dominguez Fine Arts Gallery. Chicago, IL.
- 2015 | Print Residency - Chicago, IL. Master Printer: Gabe Hoare & Liz Born.
- 2015 | Yay Big Southwest Print Exhibit - Rusteberg Gallery. Brownsville, TX.
- 2015 | Chelas Y Cheetos - Cinco Puntos Gallery. El Paso, TX.
- 2014 | Septiembre Photos - La Fe Cultural Center, El Paso, TX.
- 2014 | Rito Y Recuerdo - National Museum of Mexican Art. Chicago, IL.
- 2014 | Una Cita Con La Vida - Self-Help Graphics. Los Angeles, CA.
- 2013 | Exposicion - Maintain Creative Coalition, El Paso, TX.
- 2013 | Yay Big Southwest - Tucson, AZ & El Paso, TX.
- 2012 | Maintain Mobile - Chalk The Block. El Paso, TX.

- 2012 | Chucanos - Kalavera Gallery, El Paso, TX.
- 2011 | Free Radicals - Chalk the Block. El Paso, TX.
- 2011 | Border to Border - Gallery A.K.A., San Diego, CA.
- 2011 | Exquisite Dorks - DFAULT Gallery, El Paso, TX.
- 2009 | Redefining Walls - Union Gallery, Univ. of Texas El Paso.
- 2009 | Biennial Ciudad Juárez / El Paso - El Paso Museum of Art & Museo del Arte Juárez
- 2009 | Viewfinder - Houston Center of Photography, Houston, TX.
- 2007 | High Contrast - Shine Gallery. El Paso, TX.

RECENT PROJECTS

- 2018 | *Latinxgraphix* - Ohio State University Press / Frederick Aldama, editor - Anthology of Latinx Cartoonist
- 2017 | *Photographic: The Life of Graciela Iturbide* Getty Publishing - Illustrated graphic novel with author Isabel Quintero.
- 2017 | *Jaya And Rasa: A Love Story* - Cinco Puntos Press / Sonia Patel, author - Illustrated book cover + Production graphics.
- 2017 | *Your Healing Is Killing Me* - Plays Inverse Press / Vicki Grise, author - Illustrated play cover + Production graphics
- 2017 | *Border Beast* - The Nib: Daily Comics Publication - Web comic
- 2016 | *This Land Is Your Land* - Chicano Batman, Johnnie Walker campaign - Illustrated album cover
- 2016 | *YONKE* - Self-Initiated Project - Comic zine about the border
- 2016 | *Disasters of War* - Self-Initiated Project - Comic zine about war crimes on the US/MX border
- 2015 | *Visions From The Inside* - Culture/Strike - Illustration
- 2015 | *Hotel Indigo* - Hotel Indigo (El Paso) + CAD Studio - Mural, Concept Design + Wall Treatments
- 2015 | *Rani Patel: In Full Effect* - Cinco Puntos Press / Sonia Patel, author - Illustrated book cover + Production graphics
- 2015 | *Sunset Mountains* - Ode Brewing Co. - Mural + illustration
- 2014 | *Gabi, A Girl In Pieces* - Cinco Puntos Press/ Isabel Quintero, author - Illustrated book cover + interior Illustrations
- 2014 | *Desert Yeti* - Macbeth Footwear - Mural, shirt graphic + print
- 2014 | *Los Lobos* - Modern Multiples/Los Lobos - Gig poster

AWARDS + RESIDENCIES

- 2017 | Working Classroom Resident - Albuquerque, NM.
- 2017 | Self Help Graphics Print Residency - Los Angeles, CA.
- 2017 | Siqueros-Pollock Concurso Binacional Fronterizo de Pintura y Dibujo - Ciudad Juárez, Chih./El Paso, TX.
- 2017 | Santa Fe Artist Residency - Santa Fe Art Institute. Santa Fe, NM.
- 2016 | Stan Lee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts Excellence Endowment - El Paso, TX.
- 2016 | Artist Incubator Grant - NEA Art Works, The City of El Paso MCAD. & Texas Commission on the Arts
- 2015 | Studio Residency - Firestation No. 4, San Antonio, TX.
- 2014 | Artist Incubator Grant - City of El Paso Museum and Cultural Affairs Dept. & Texas Commission on the Arts. El Paso, TX.
- 2014 | Special Projects Print Residency - Self Help Graphics, Los Angeles, CA. Master Printers José Alpuche, Self-Help Graphics.

2014 | Print Residency - Modern Multiples, Los Angeles, CA. Master Printers Richard Duardo & Ivan Alpuche.

2013 | Studio Internship - Artist Vincent Valdez, Strangest Fruit Series. San Antonio, TX.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT + PRESENTATIONS + WORKSHOPS

2016 | Artist Talk & Studio Visits - University of Texas at El Paso. El Paso, TX.

2016 | Print Workshop & Presentation - University of Texas at Brownsville. Brownsville, TX.

2016 | Desert Environment on the Border Presentation - Centennial Museum at University of Texas at El Paso. El Paso, TX.

2015 | Freelance Futures: Professional Practices Workshop - CUADRO Community Space / Stan Lee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Arts. University of Texas at El Paso.

2015 | Waterbound Presentation - Bowie High School. El Paso, TX.

2015 | Artist In Business: Public Art Training - City of El Paso MCAD & Texas Commission on the Arts El Paso, TX.

2015 | Letters from the Inside - Participating artist in a national graphics campaign connecting visual artist with migrants in detention centers. Culture/Strike, San Francisco, CA.

2014 | Centennial Celebration of the Arts Presentation - Presentation of a participatory project about immigration and water. Stan Lee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts. El Paso, TX.

2014 | Visual Narratives: Collaborative Storytelling - Presentation at the Inaugural Wise Latina Conference, El Paso, Tx.

2009 | Young Curators: Summer Youth Art Program - Rubin Center, UTEP. El Paso, TX.

2005 | Abriendo Brecha / Haciendo Camino: Activist Scholarship on Race, Identity, and Mestizaje - Scholarly paper presentation *Poster Theory: Cultural Identity & Reciprocity in Chicana/o Printmaking*. Univ. of Texas at Austin.

2005 | Emerging Scholarship in Women & Gender Studies Conference - Scholarly paper presentation *EARTHBODY: The Work of Ana Mendieta* Univ. of Texas at Austin.

2002 - 2005 | Save Our Youth /Resistencia Bookstore - Event coordinator and host for Red Salmon Arts, Austin, TX.

COLLECTIONS

2017 | Hispanic Cultural Center. Albuquerque, NM

2016 | National Museum of Mexican Art. Chicago, IL.

2016 | El Paso Museum of Art, El Paso, TX.

2016 | Collection of Juan Sandoval. El Paso, TX.

2015 | Samuel E. Kelly Ethnic Cultural Center; University of Washington. Seattle, WA.

2014 | Collection of Gilbert & Dolores Cárdenas. Southbend, MI.

2014 | Collection of Dr. Harriet & Ricardo Romo. San Antonio, TX.

2013 | Collection of Karl Whitaker. Tucson, AZ.

CONTACT

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