

OPIOID:
Express Yourself

REDUX

A brought back show that launched accountability against the Sackler's and other architects of the opioid epidemic.

Available in our VIEWING ROOM:
October 24 - October 31.

Artists Participating :

- BEN Quesnel • ANTUAN Rodríguez • NATHAN Lewis • JASON Werner
- MATTHEW PAUL Clearly • LEE Tal • JOHN J. Bedoya • CLINTON Deckert

2020 CATALOGUE

OPIOID: Express Yourself

REDUX

An artist-led exhibition investigates and targets the architects of opioid addiction

A brought back show – Every day it's in the news. Overdose deaths on the rise, says CDC. Opioid makers paid millions to advocacy groups. And while lawmakers make veiled campaign rally promises to change the tide of citizens lost to drugs, the stigma of addiction means that here on the ground, we're not doing enough.

The Alvarez Gallery proudly brings back the 2018 group show that launched accountability against the Sackler's and other architects of the opioid epidemic. Opioid: Express Yourself Redux reflex on the historic platform we gave artists to confront the culprits of this epidemic. The gallery gave them the freedom to use our space as they choose and encouraged them to use the same freedom one of its artists, Arturo Di Modica, has employed in the past in making his sculptures public. This is an important platform of expression for each artist to send a message about the opioid epidemic, how it has affected them personally, professionally and as a community.

Part protest art, part individual activism, this artist-led exhibition sought to strike change in ways similar to the social movements spreading across the country. From abstract representations to deeply personal stories, the artists of Opioid: Express Yourself navigated their own histories and how the epidemic affected their lives.

The stigma of drug addiction and its aftermath is still a taboo subject -- we applaud the victims that have survived to emerge as clean and sober, but sweep under the blanket the millions of individuals whose lives have been rendered to ruins by their drug use. We criminalize, persecute, condemn and punish these individuals socially, economically and politically. However, the individuals that caused the mass-marketing of opioids have museums, halls, performance arenas and universities honoring their names. They are lauded for their generosity while we conveniently ignore the broken homes and broken people that wealth is built upon.

This group of artists said "no more." No more remaining silent while yet another museum show is sponsored by the Sackler Foundation. No more playing nice in boardrooms where employees of Purdue Pharma sit. No more clapping politely as these white-collar drug dealers are given honors and speeches. Like many other movements happening today that use that power of public voice to excite change, these artists are raising their voices to say: do more to fight this epidemic.

Our Director and Gallery founder, Fernando Luis Alvarez, despite sharing a board with a senior-level and trusted executive of Purdue Pharma at the DSSD (Downtown Stamford Services District), he still went head-on against Purdue on June 22nd, 2018, the very same day that he got arrested for dropping and not removing an 800-pound spoon sculpture from the company's driveway.



BEN Quesnel

Take 2, 2018
17,000 ceramic pieces
8' x 3'
243.84 x 91.44 cm



BEN Quesnel

Prescribed Ruins, Take 2, 2018
Found Objects (wood, bathroom wall and
tiles, medicine cabinet, and prescription vials)
53" x 65" x 4.5"
134.62 x 165.1 x 11.43 cm



ANTUAN Rodríguez
Bombas de Tiempo, 2003
Edition 1/7
Variable measures



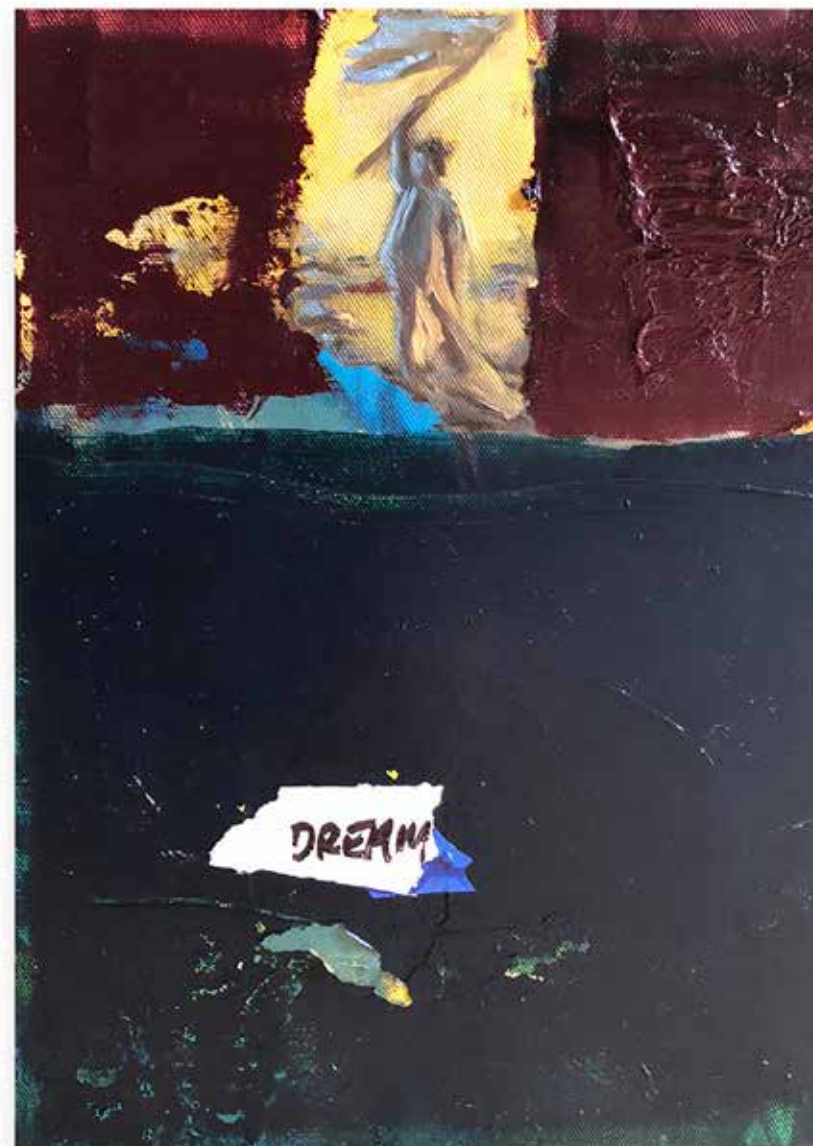
ANTUAN Rodríguez
MVP Opioid, 2012
Edition 1/9
Bronze



ANTUAN Rodríguez
—
Crippled, 2007
Mixed media
12' x 6' x 2"
365.76 x 182.88 x 5.08 cm



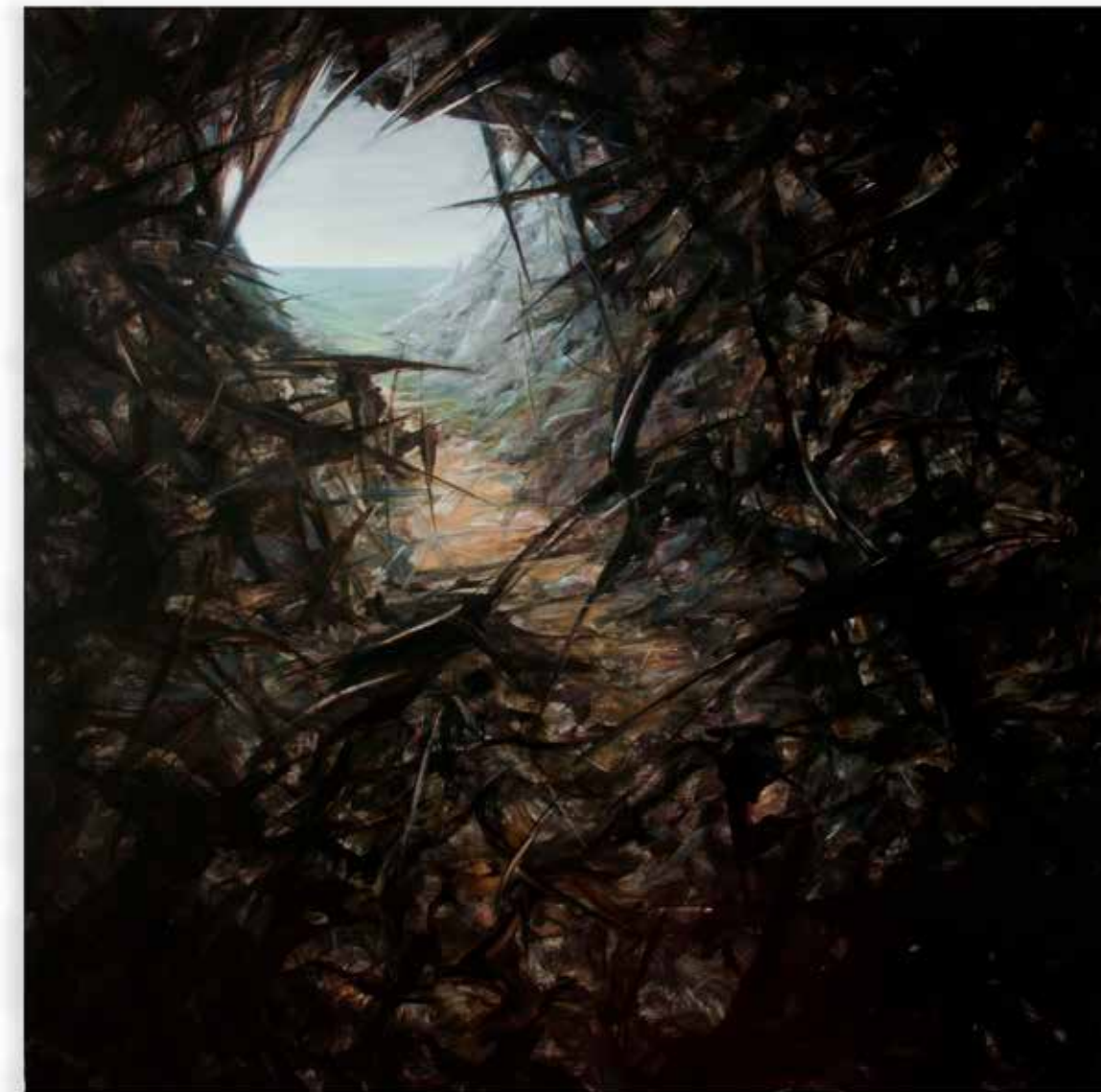
NATHAN Lewis
Masters of Reality
Oil, acrylic, and enamel on canvas
48" x 30"
121.92 x 76.2 cm



NATHAN Lewis
Wave a White Flag
Oil and Acrylic
12" x 9"
30.48 x 22.86 cm



NATHAN Lewis
Is it Freedom
Oil on canvas
11" x 14"
27.94 x 35.56 cm



JASON Werner
—
Hope Hopeless #9, 2017
Oil on canvas
54" x 54"
137.16 x 137.16 cm



JASON Werner
—
Hope Hopeless #10, 2017
Oil on canvas
54" x 54"
137.16 x 137.16 cm



MATTHEW PAUL Cleary

Let Them Eat Death, Installation

Acrylic, vinyl on wood panel

35" x 15" x 2"

88.9 x 38.1 x 5.08 cm



DOMENIC Esposito
Fabricator

—
Purdue, 2018
Steel
10' x 4' x 3'8"



LEE Tal

Memories of an American Flag

Wood, acrylic, enamel paint,

American Flag

67.5" x 109" x 1"

171.45 x 276.86 x 2.54 cm



JOHN J. Bedoya

—
Side Effects
Oil on canvas
142" x 72"
360.7 x 182.9 cm



CLINTON Deckert
—
Orchestrating the Chaos
Oil on board
18" x 24"
45.72 x 60.96 cm



CLINTON Deckert
—
Feed the Beast
Oil on board
24" x 24"
60.96 x 60.96 cm



CLINTON Deckert
—
The P.I.L.L.
Oil on board
10" x 8"
25.4 x 20.3 cm

CONTACT

Fernando Luis Alvarez
203-360-0999

Mailing Address:

11 Brookside Rd. Redding, CT. 06896

www.alvarezgallery.com

falvarez@alvarezgallery.com

Monday: by appointment

Tuesday - Saturday: 11 am - 6pm

Gallery[®]

Think Upside Down