

Stephanie Syjuco

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{Texas visual art}

The Amon Carter Museum Pairs Past and Present in Current Exhibitions

by [Jessica Fuentes](#) February 23, 2022

In a press release, the Amon Carter Museum of American Art in Fort Worth, announced their 2022-23 exhibition calendar which includes two exhibitions currently on view that pair historical and contemporary works.



Stephanie Syjuco: Double Vision, 2022, installation image courtesy of The Amon Carter Museum of American Art.

Stephanie Syjuco: Double Vision, is a site-specific installation that opened in January of this year. The installation includes two series of printed photographs installed on top of floor-to-ceiling vinyl murals. Ms. Syjuco, a Filipino-American artist who works in a variety of mediums, is known for exploring social and economic issues as well as the legacy of colonialism. In this installation, the artist investigates myths of the American West by transforming images of works of art from the Carter’s collection.



Detail of “Stephanie Syjuco: Double Vision,” 2022, installation image.

On one wall, Ms. Syjuco installed a set of twenty-five dye sublimation prints on aluminum on top of an enlarged and modified vinyl mural of *The Storm in the Rocky Mountains* by Albert Bierstadt. The prints, titled *Manhandled 1-25*, depict close-up details of men’s hands in artworks on view in the museum’s collection galleries. Kristen Gaylord,

Associate Curator of Photographs at the Carter, told Glasstire that the artist chose to feature imagery of men’s hands wielding power — signing documents, holding reigns, and brandishing weapons. In this way, the artist draws attention to how people, and white men in particular, shaped mythologies of the West.



Oree Originol, “Justice for Our Lives,” 2014-2021, 78 digital images, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Museum purchase through the Patricia Tobacco Forrester Endowment, 2020.51A-MM, © 2014, Oree Originol.

Printing the Revolution! The Rise and Impact of Chicano Graphics, 1965 to Now, an exhibition organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum, also recently opened at the museum. The exhibition was initially intended to be on view at the Smithsonian from November 2020 through August 2021, but was closed for six months (November 2020 — May 2021) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Carter is the first stop

on its national tour, though additional sites have not been announced yet.

In a video introduction produced by the Smithsonian, E. Carmen Ramos, who was then the Acting Chief Curator and Curator of Latinx Art at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, discussed the significance of the exhibition's focus on graphics. She states, "The graphic medium is so important as a site of this articulation of Chicano and Mexican American identity because it was affordable, it was easy to reproduce and disseminate, and it was also an artform that could be public. Many of the works in the exhibition are posters, meant to be displayed in public space, meant to convey information about an event or a cause."



According to the Smithsonian's website, this exhibition is the first to bring together historic prints from the Civil Rights era and contemporary works that expand the graphics medium into the digital age. Rather than being presented chronologically, the exhibition is laid out in five themes: Urgent Images, A New Chicano World, Changemakers, Reimagining National and Global Histories, and Public Interventions and Digital Innovations.

Spencer Wigmore, Associate Curator of Paintings, Sculpture, and Works on Paper at the Carter, spoke with Glasstire about the significance of this exhibition to Texas and the Dallas/Fort Worth area. "The show is

rich in iconic figures from Texas art history, with ten artists with strong ties to the state and a number of artists who worked in the area at some point in their lives... One facet of the show is that it seeks to present local histories of activism in a national and international context.”



Amado M. Peña Jr., “Aquello que han muerto,” 1975, screenprint on paper, 18 x 12 inches, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of Amado M. Peña, Sr. and Maria Peña, © 1975, Amado M. Peña, Jr.

One such work is *Aquellos que han muerto (Those who have died)* by Amado M. Peña Jr., who was born in Laredo. This work uses a school picture of [Santos Rodriguez](#), a twelve-year-old boy who was shot by a Dallas police officer while he and his thirteen-year-old brother were handcuffed in a police car. In the print, Mr. Peña includes names and locations of other Latino victims of police brutality in Texas. Other Texas artists in the exhibition include Michael Menchaca, Zeke Peña, Juan de Dios Mora, Luis Jiménez, Carmen Lomas Garza, Alejandro Diaz, Jesus Barraza, Barbara Carrasco, and Sam Coronado.

Stephanie Syjuco: Double Vision, will be on view through January 2023 and *¡Printing the Revolution! The Rise and Impact of Chicano Graphics, 1965 to Now* will be on view through May 8, 2022.

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