

RAFAEL PEREA DE LA CABADA



Rafael Perea de la Cabada, Tapestry,
Aguipiente y Serguilla, 115 x 84 inches, 2020
Photo: John Nava

Tiempo sin Palabras / Time without Words

The unspoken message that art conveys may be understood by one who experiences it. Rafael Perea de la Cabada considers the visceral effects of art as he navigates that which is unsaid, the purely visual, more magical, and mystical set in an ethereal context. This conceptual existence of uncertainty allows the artist to take a leap of faith in non-linear thinking and risk-taking. The result offers a glimpse of how the world is modified by the daringness of the artist.

The art of Rafael Perea de la Cabada crosses cultural boundaries emanating from the rich traditions of his native Mexico with connections to Spain, Italy, France, Germany, Switzerland, Northern Ireland, Croatia, Cuba, and the United States. These global ties bring a cosmopolitan view to the artist's purpose, as he creates a visual language of power and transformation. His curiosity exists in the broad spectrum of humanity that reveals an immersive sense of wonder and a penchant for the unknown.

Perea works in a stylized abstraction that provokes introspection and reflexivity. His multi-media approach to figuration and non-objective form draws from his experiences in the Hispanic culture, insights on the human condition, and perceptions of our global discourse. He sees the artist as one who can express relationships intrinsically, forming a connection of interpersonal communication and interpretation. The visionary that Perea has become is centered, diverse, and instinctive, grounded in the steep conventions from his past and prescient beyond the contingencies of today. Rather than specific genres, he sees a confluence between periods and artists. It may include the methodologies from one working in the 17th Century and one working in contemporary culture. Perea sees the interaction between these two bodies of work as a mechanism that connects the past, present, and future.

Beyond the constructs of design and theory, Perea's art depicts a high-energy spontaneity from explosive brushwork in his paintings to the subtle nuances of his drawings and prints. The impact of black and white in selected compositions is reminiscent to the broad strokes of action painter and Abstract Expressionist Franz Kline. Perea forges a new conversation with gestures of time and space that culminate in this body of work. The artist acknowledges those who came before. Artists such as Diego Rivera, José Guadalupe Posada, Jose Clemente Orozco, Miguel Conde, José Luis Cuevas, and Francisco Toledo. Perea references Rivera and his students, those who studied with Spanish immigrants from the Civil War that taught his teachers, and generations of artists who brought influences from other countries to Mexico. Antonio Rodrigues Luna, Luis López Loza, Rufino Tamayo, Carlos Mérida, and Gunther Gerzso are included in the pantheon. The cultural shifts of European and Latin American Surrealism, German Expressionism, Modernism, Neo-figurative Art, and Abstract Expressionism weigh in as well.

Perea is mindful of being in the present. He notes that different things need to be said in different ways and through different media. Timing, the right approach, delivery, and materials prove quintessential to his process. From formal training to conceptual explorations, his prolific career includes works in printmaking, painting, drawing, sculpture, stained-glass, found objects, muralism, mosaic design, and ceramic sculpture. The exhibition, *Tiempo sin Palabras/ Time without Words* features painting, printmaking, works on paper, drawing, and ceramics. Rafael Perea de la Cabada's vast oeuvre resonates in the zeitgeist of our culture. The work signifies a continuum of time as visual culture remains.

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