

CENTER FOR VISUAL
ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Center for Visual Art Presents the Mid-Career Exhibition of Denver Artist and Professor Carlos Frésquez.

Sangre Colorado: Carlos Frésquez Mid-Career Survey
January 12, 2018 – March 24, 2018



DENVER, CO (November 28, 2017)

Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver) Center for Visual Art (CVA) announces ***Sangre Colorado: Carlos Frésquez Mid-Career Survey***, an exhibition that features work spanning forty years of the influential and prolific career of Denver's own Carlos Frésquez. A celebrated Chicano artist, Frésquez's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally and is held in major collections. In his paintings, prints, and installations Frésquez honors his Chicano background and pulls in varied influences from punk and pop culture to modern masters, blending visual and cultural cues with both reverence and humor.

The exhibition and catalog begin with artwork Frésquez made as an undergraduate student in the 1970s, a time when the Chicano Rights movement was gaining momentum in Denver. Frésquez brought Chicano culture into the classroom as a student through visual representation in his artwork, and by demanding discussion of Chicano art in history courses. As a professor Frésquez continues to bring the conversation of

equality and rights into the classroom and into his artwork. Through his artwork we see Frésquez's reverence (and sometimes irreverence) for Chicano and Mexican tradition alongside pop culture and modern art references that situate Chicano art among the progression of contemporary art.

The intention behind Frésquez's work is often to make the viewer reexamine commonly accepted beliefs about the human condition and the façade of hierarchy among different groups of people. The title of the exhibition, "Sangre Colorado" is an example of Carlos's playful use of language paired with imagery to convey meaning that is on one level humorous, but with a serious message behind the pun. The use of Sangre, Spanish for "blood" and Colorado, which means "red color" together are a play on the colloquialism, "red-blooded American." Like that of many self-identifying Chicano/as, Carlos's family has lived in Colorado for several generations. As he says, "We didn't cross the border, the border crossed us."

From his early abstract work, to his layered multimedia paintings as half of the Los Supersonicos artist duo, to his set design and the reoccurring motif of the curtain, the exhibition travels the wide span of Frésquez's career trajectory.

CVA will produce a 100-page catalogue for the exhibition that will include a larger depth and breadth of Frésquez's oeuvre than can be shown in the gallery. Essay writers will illuminate his career as it pertains to the Chicano Art Movement, the Colorado art scene, and from his personal and academic perspectives.

Extra Credit

Through teaching, both as a professor of art at Metropolitan State University of Denver, as well as in many community outreach programs, Frésquez has mentored thousands of students to find their voice and tell their story through art. In honor of his significant impact, CVA's 965 Student-Run Gallery will present **Extra Credit**, an invitational exhibition featuring new work by over 40 of Frésquez's former students.

Events

All events are free and open to the public.

- **Opening Reception:** January 12, 6–8pm
Music by DJ Dizzy D
- **Carlos Frésquez Artist Talk:** Wednesday, March 7, 5:30pm
- **Closing Reception and Poetry Reading:** Saturday, March 24, 4–6pm
Join Carlos in a ceremonial repainting of the walls, erasing the temporary murals while reflecting on their content.
- **First and Third Fridays:** 6–8pm
Open late for viewing and art making.
- **Young Artist Studio: Mural Painting** Tuesdays & Thursdays, January 9–March 22, 3:30–5:30pm. Free and open workshops for ages 11-21

Community

As a further demonstration of Frésquez's impact on the community, The Chicano Humanities and Arts Council has committed a full wall in their gallery to exhibit additional works by Carlos Fésquez.

Recognizing One of Our Own will be on display for the month of February with an Reception and Book Signing Friday, February 16, 6-8om. Additionally, Fésquez will be featured in group exhibitions at the Museo de las Americas in Denver and at the Arvada Center for the Arts concurrently with the CVA exhibition.

Exhibition Organization and Sponsorship

CVA Annual Sponsors are MSU Denver Student Affairs Board, Jan and Fred Mayer Fund, Marcia Gold Naiman Fund, Campbell Foundation Fund, Otten Johnson Robinson Neff Ragonetti PC and BBVA Compass Bank, Delta Dental, SpringHill Suites Downtown at MSU Denver.

The exhibition is organized by the Center for Visual Art and is curated by Cecily Cullen, Managing Director / Curator of CVA.

About CVA

Center for Visual Art is the off-campus contemporary art center for Metropolitan State University of Denver. CVA provides a year-round schedule of exhibitions that have both local significance and international reach, education programming open to the community, and immersive and entrepreneurial workforce development for students in creative fields. The center is free and open to all. For more information, visit msudenver.edu/cva.

Location: 965 Santa Fe Drive, Denver, Colorado, 80204 // 303-294-5207

Image: Carlos Frésquez, *The Cubist Cholo*, Pastel and Color Pencil on Paper, 1992
High-resolution images available upon request.

Hours: Tuesday - Friday: 11am-6pm, Saturday: 12pm-5pm.
Closed Sunday and Monday, and for installation between exhibitions

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