



ANDY MEDINA

MITLA

August 11th to October 4th, 2022

Mitla, presented at Estrella Gallery, is a sixteen-painting exhibition by Andy Medina. The show runs in three parts. Part Three opens on September 22, 2022.

The paintings transliterate the stone frets of Mitla and hang on and around a metal frame based on the cruciform tomb found in the ruins of Mitla.

Mitla, a ruin complex in Oaxaca, was once the Zapotec culture's most important site. It was a thriving religious and commercial center until the Spanish arrived in 1521 and dismantled it, using its stones to create the cathedral of San Pablo and the cathedral of Oaxaca. Mitla's singularity is its outstanding geometric fretwork, which covers the walls of the complex.

The large-scale geometric abstractions painted in acrylic and spray paint overtake the gallery. They are visually striking, employing Medina's distinct palette of bold primary colors. The images harken 2000's tribal design or purely aesthetically concerned abstractions when presented to the American viewer with no context. But when you are aware that Medina's *Mitla* replicates a walk through a millennia-old tomb in Oaxaca, you realize you are participating in the impossible translation of the visual forms of a culture cut short by colonization into contemporary abstract painting.

Medina is a multidisciplinary transgender artist of indigenous descent from Oaxaca City; he often explores language and symbols, investigating their critical and experimental possibilities and questioning linguistic structures that limit our ability to make sense of the world. He often plays with lost futures and anachronisms through the visual juxtaposition of pre-Columbian symbols and contemporary culture. Medina asks the viewer, "What is?" and "What could have been?"

- Marco Estrella

Andy Medina (b. 1993, Oaxaca City, Mexico) is a multidisciplinary artist working between Oaxaca City and Mexico City. He graduated from Escuela Nacional Pintura, Escultura y Grabado, La Esmeralda in 2016. Medina's solo exhibitions include *¿Quién es analfabeta ahora?*, MUAC en la ciudad, CDMX, Mexico (2021), *Chicanoxtlán*, Salón Silicón, CDM, Mexico (2020) *Superarme*, Galería Galería, CDMX, Mexico (2020) *Subversión-es*, Museo Legislativo, Sentimientos de la nación, CDMX, Mexico (2019), *Index*, Ladrón galería, CDMX, Mexico (2018) *Manual código vial*, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Oaxaca, Mexico (2018) *Santuario/Rendir Tributo*, Bikini Wax EPS, CDMX (2017)

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