

HUGO MONTOYA -- MADE IN AMERICAS

---

**Dates** Jan 13 - Feb 25, 2023  
**Opening** Jan 13, 6-8 pm  
**Location** 136 Baxter Street New York, NY 10013

-----

Hugo Montoya's exhibition, *Made In Americas*, provides us with a subtle but unabashed perspective on our past and present. Through the use of meticulously scavenged materials, Montoya's process is a structural metamorphosis that keeps with it each object's shared histories, metaphysics, alternative lives, and emblems of social identity. Montoya's compositions blur distinctions, humor, and underscore the parallels in which material objects are used to symbolize cultural representation.

Hugo Montoya's sculptures become repositories for the meaning people project on them. Symbolic anthropology studies symbols and the processes, such as myth and ritual, by which humans assign meaning in order to address fundamental questions about human life. Hugo distorts these notions of context. Religious objects typically transcend their thing-ness: a cross might just be two pieces of wood but it represents something very different; a menorah is just a candelabra, except that it's not. This kind of symbolism precariously, and at times mischievously, combined with a Cleveland Indians baseball cap, a mini wicker chair, a mid-century coat rack, Montoya then imagines the implications. It is no longer sufficient to be sensitive to the settings and situations in which a singular object is placed - we are asked to consider each work's life and how it will be continually reinvested with new meaning. They focus on the evolution and transformation of humanity, as well as its causes and consequences.

Culturally relative, Montoya has the tendency to look at the world from the perspective of a nomadic being. His upbringing, ideologies, and lived experiences influence the items he collects and the way he re-appropriates their origins as well as their geographies. Montoya constructs fantastic and fictional ideas, mixing absurdist reality with their own conventions and interpretations; converting objects and images that circulate the world - that many times fuel the spread of stereotypes and prejudices. Montoya reveals the influence that those myths have had on defining the Americas and he transfigures them not into answers but questions: What is America? Where is America? Who are Americans?

**Hugo Montoya** (b. 1975, Gainesville, Florida) lives and works between Catskills, New York and Mexico City. Recent solo exhibitions include Liberal Arts Roxbury (Roxbury, NY), Tiro al Blanco (Guadalajara), Gondola Wish/Lulu (online), Rinomina (Paris), Big Pictures LA (Los Angeles), Emerson Dorsch (Miami) Guccivuitton (Miami), David Castillo Gallery (Miami). Select group exhibitions include Tile Blush (Miami) Goodweather Gallery / Parque for Condo CDMX (Mexico City), and Orgy Park (Queens, NY).