

ENGAGE Projects

Announcement for Immediate Release:

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Seeing Thoughts Through

ALBERTO AGUILAR

Friday, June 3 - Saturday, July 9, 2022

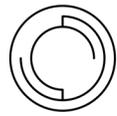


Enigmatic State 2, 3, 2021, enamel on Day-glo paper

ENGAGE Projects is pleased to present *Seeing Thoughts Through*, a solo exhibition by Chicago-based multidisciplinary artist Alberto Aguilar. Harnessing the use of formal elements such as shape, line, and color, Aguilar will transform the gallery into familiar chaos using everyday materials from settings such as storefronts and grocery stores, similar to the one his parents owned when he was a child.

Used almost exclusively for commercial purposes, Aguilar reclaims the use of hand-painted sale signs as a form of dissent from systems of power. Often using text as a way to breach accessibility in his work, the artist plays with the subtlety of the double entendre and the pun, offering deeper implications to his seemingly factual storefront advertisements. Not only does Aguilar use text for its denotative content, he equally privileges the form in which it is presented as a way to embody meaning that language can only describe. Aguilar asserts that the use of text is important for immediate connection with the viewer so as not to obscure his calls to awareness.

Pulling from his background in painting to design the compositions of the signs, Aguilar works within the established visual language determined by the company he collaborates with for production. This fixed set of rules allows him to push against the precedent for communication, creating his own mode of minor gesture within the confines of this commercial symbolism. He claims, "Moments of disruption are the moments of learning." Aguilar creates intentional disorientation as a means to activate awareness in his audience. Insisting on the integration of art and life, Aguilar's work can most accurately be described as a social practice. Oftentimes, the artist makes work from domestic items in others' homes, or collects ingredients from the community to make a shared mole sauce. This form of making involves charged objects that hold meaning through the personal connotations they carry.



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Alberto Aguilar (b. 1974, Chicago) is an artist, curator, advocate, and dedicated educator at the School of the Art Institute, Chicago. He has shown and presented his work at various museums, galleries, storefronts, homes and street corners around the world. Some of these include the Queens Museum, El Torito Supermercado, The Minneapolis Institute of Art, the corner of Cesar Chavez Ave and North Broadway (Los Angeles, CA), The Museum of Contemporary Art (Detroit, MI), Chicago City Hall, The Museum of Contemporary Art (Chicago, IL), Museo Del Jamon (Madrid, Spain), The Art Institute of Chicago, The Chicago River Jackson Bridge, The Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art (Overland Park, KS), El Cosmico Trailer Park (Marfa, TX), El Centro de Desarrollo de las Artes Visuales (Havana, Cuba), Iowa rest stop I-80. His work is in the collection of the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, The Jorge Lucero Study Collection, Soho House, Meta - Facebook, The National Museum of Mexican Art, The Office of Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot. Along with some members of his family he collectively organizes Mayfield, a multi-use space which operates on the grounds of his home. He is also the recipient of the 3Arts Award.

For further information, please contact info@engage-projects.com