



RUIZ-HEALY ART  
Latinx, Latin America, & Texas Contemporary Art

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ruiz-Healy Art is temporarily open by appointment only. This exhibition will be made available online on our [Artsy](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [gallery website](#). We will also allow up to four persons in the gallery at a time for in-person viewing until further notice from the government concerning COVID-19.

Thank you for your understanding.

## ***More Than Words: Text-Based Artworks II***

Ruiz-Healy Art is delighted to present ***More Than Words: Text-Based Artworks II*** at our San Antonio gallery featuring works by Richard Armendariz, Nate Cassie, Andrés Ferrandis, Cisco Jiménez, Katie Pell, Ethel Shipton, and Gary Sweeney. The exhibition will be viewable by appointment and will be made available online on Wednesday, March 25th on Ruiz-Healy Art's website and social media platforms.

From autobiographical narratives of an adventurous childhood exploring the forests of Delaware in Katie Pell's work to storylike carvings chronicling lush scenes of animals personified as literary figures in Ricky Armendariz's work, the use of text in the works of these seven artists range from subversive social commentary to rapturous meditation. Text, a recurring hallmark throughout art history, demands we read the visual composition of a painting or sculpture and interpret bits of language simultaneously. Text pulls the viewer in, slowing them down to consider how the text and its imagery inform the other. Furthermore, the intentional use of text in artwork can serve to disrupt our passive consumption of media, both digital and analog. In these exhibitions, each artist creates work in undeniably unique styles and processes, all anchored together by the written word, granting the viewer an additional clue with which to interpret the works.

### **About the Artists**

**Ricky Armendariz's** conceptual aesthetic is heavily influenced by growing up in the U.S./Mexico border. Armendariz is known for his hand-carved paintings, text-based imagery and his large color-saturated woodblock prints that weave anthropomorphic narratives with tales of turmoil. Spanglish, as well as contemporary and folk song lyrics, appear frequently in his compositions.

**Nate Cassie's** work includes drawing, painting, sculpture, video and digital media. His thematic practice centers on what he terms, "spaces in between," the gaps that distance surface from volume, skin, and structure, formal and intuitive systems. Cassie's text works employ the written word as an implied value that reveals figurative forms and shapes.



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**Andrés Ferrandis** uses both intricate collage and sultry text in his signature style. His pieces are void of English and Spanish interplay, as he was born in Valencia, Spain and academically trained at the University of Seville. Ferrandis writes of his use of various media and text in his work, “My intention is to create a language that allows me to work, not from experience or a particular subject itself, but with the emotions that those diverse subjects provoke.”

**Cisco Jiménez’s** oeuvre consists of various media that expose the concerns of Mexico’s social and political environment. Drawing upon the tradition of popular Mexican art which utilizes text as an educational, political, religious or commercial element within aesthetic objects and paintings, Jiménez creates his own icons, naming his paintings with humorous neologisms.

**Katie Pell** worked with media of all sorts, however, her true love was drawing. She used combinations of media and tools like text to expand the boundaries of what her drawings could relay to the viewer, often using text to reveal complicated thoughts and emotions. “I want to know where genuine living and role-playing intersect. Some of us build our own mythology out of our environment, desires and furious defiance at our genetic mediocrity. I hope my work can ignite the excitement of our pointless and forgettable lives, and reaffirm the value of our gorgeous desperation.” - Katie Pell

**Ethel Shipton’s** practice is informed by a strong conceptual base that encompasses text in a playful manner. Through painting, installation, photography, and text, Shipton spotlights instants of clarity that flit by in the comings and goings of daily life. Her recent works are visual displays processing her recent artist residency at Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, Germany through Blue Star Contemporary.

**Gary Sweeney** appropriates commercial signage and found objects to create paintings, sculptures, and installations that humorously confront controversial topics. In his text-based compositions, he often uses linguistic puzzles and famous quotations to question the progress of society. The artist mocks the patterns of social Darwinism and exposes the discrepancies and contradictions in current governmental, economic, and social milieux.

### About Ruiz-Healy Art

Established in San Antonio, Texas and in operation since 2006, Ruiz-Healy Art specializes in contemporary works of art with an emphasis on Latinx and Latin American artists, as well as working with prominent Texas-based artists. With galleries in San Antonio, Texas and New York City, Ruiz-Healy Art's continuous investments in these underrepresented areas have remained a longstanding signature of the gallery program. To request high-resolution images and more information about the exhibitions, please contact the gallery at [info@ruizhealyart.com](mailto:info@ruizhealyart.com) or 210-804-2219. Both Ruiz-Healy Art galleries are temporarily open by appointment only.