

MAX ESTRELLA



ADRIAN ESPARZA

U-TURN

Max Estrella Gallery presents the first solo exhibition of Adrian Esparza in Spain.

Esparza draws from a wide range of cultural and art historical references when creating textile pieces made from unraveled Mexican blankets or sarapes. He uses the thread from the sarapes to create wall drawings whose forms and colors often directly reference specific landscapes and other complex forms. Esparza has long drawn inspiration from the work of mid-century minimalist artists who reduced visual expression to its essential elements, often creating work based on grid-like constructions and using simple, geometric forms. The works have additionally been likened to minimalist versions of western landscape paintings, with bright colors and jagged forms stretching out along an imaginary horizon. Esparza takes the practice of deconstructing the essential elements of painting several steps further, using the process to re-imagine his own Mexican-American heritage and the minimalist practice itself. With the sarape as a starting point, he unravels this stereotypical representation of Mexican culture, and reformulates it into a piece that both challenges and reflects art historic and cultural traditions.

In Mid-Century Cultural Content artist Adrian Esparza expands his circle of influence to directly reference mid-century architecture, drawing inspiration from its flat planes, split levels and engagement with landscape. His work has always had architectural elements, the lines of the thread in his wall drawings reference both volume and form. Exaggerated one and two point perspective create structures that suggest illusionistic space while isometric methods of design inform conceptual structures in the work.

Without identifying a specific structure or architect, Esparza enters the world of mid-century modernist architecture through this fascination with geometric idealism, mimicking simple forms and referencing clean, empty and futuristic spaces presented in the modernist architectural imaginary. In recent years Esparza's works have taken on a more overtly architectural quality in their construction through the use of wooden armatures, increased scale, and a growing dimensionality. They have begun to look less like western landscapes and more like futuristic urban panoramas, often based loosely on commercial postcards of cities that Esparza has collected as he travels around the world. He supplements these found images with google searches for modernist architectural structures from around the world. He likens these

practices to a 21st century immigration experience, where both the successes and failures of modernism are increasingly experienced by a global public in both real and virtual spaces.

Kerry Doyle, octubre 2014.

Adrian Esparza (El Paso, Texas, 1970) graduated in Fine Arts in the University of Texas, El Paso, in 1996. He has a Masters Degree from the California Institute of the Arts of Los Angeles.

He has exhibited, among others, in Kustmuseum Luzern, Switzerland; in the 12th Istanbul Biennial; Museo del Barrio, New York, USA; Rufino Tamayo Museum for Contemporary Art, Mexico DF, Mexico; Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, Houston, Texas, USA; and in several solo and group shows in the United States and Europe.

He has carried out several projects for international institutions, like the one performed at the newly opened Perez Art Museum of Miami (PAMM), United States.

His work takes part of *Adventures of the Black Square* at the Whitechapel Gallery in London, United Kingdom; and is present at collections such as Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, El Paso Museum of Art and the University of Texas, El Paso (TX), USA.

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Max Estrella Gallery. Santo Tomé, 6 (patio). Madrid

March 26th to May 23rd, 2015

Mon-Fri: 10:00-14:00 & 16:30-20:30; Sat: 11:00-14:00

Opening: Thursday 26th March, 2015, 8pm