

LUIS DE JESUS LOS ANGELES

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Luis De Jesus Los Angeles
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For Art Basel Miami Beach 2025, Nova Sector, **Luis De Jesus Los Angeles** is pleased to present a solo presentation of new paintings by Mexican American artist **Hugo Crosthwaite**, the first-place winner of the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery's 2019 Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition.

For thirty years, Crosthwaite has taken a multidisciplinary approach to examine the many complexities of border life, identity, and human struggle. His work often blends realism and surrealism, creating narrative scenes that reflect the social and political tensions of the Mexico–U.S. border regions. Inspired by the tradition of ex-votos and influenced by cubism and surrealism, Crosthwaite's new body of work continues his commitment to visualizing the many myths, narratives, and dynamics of Mexico. Like the storytelling in ex-votos that portray petitioners dramatically situated within scenes of their dilemmas, where divine beings intervene unexpectedly from the spiritual realm, Crosthwaite paints the true stories, miracles, and vows of Tijuana residents, portraying them as icons of resilience and perseverance.

Long known for his trademark black-and-white palette, these new paintings mark an important shift as color becomes a primary element in conveying a new spectrum of experiences within a narrative populated by heroines and modern-day saints forging their way through collapsing systems, both literally and figuratively. Vernacular is transformed into allegory as Crosthwaite utilizes symbols of *memento mori* and *vanitas*, serving as a timeless reminder of humanity's common ground.

Hugo Crosthwaite (b. 1971, Tijuana, MX) is a Mexican American artist living and working between Rosarito, Baja California, MX, and San Diego, CA, US. Crosthwaite holds a bachelor's degree in applied arts from San Diego State University, CA. His multidisciplinary approach to art encompasses paintings, murals, documentary recordings of oral histories, live-sketch graphite portrait drawings, books, films, and animations. Crosthwaite was awarded First Prize in the 2019 Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery's Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition for his stop-motion animated video *A Portrait of Berenice Sarmiento Chávez*, and subsequently the official portrait commission of Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, another stop-motion animation portrait that entered the collection in 2021. Other awards include the Grand Prize at the 2014 XI FEMSA Monterrey Biennial, MX, and the 2021 San Diego Art Prize. Crosthwaite's works are included in the permanent collections of the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C.; Morgan Library and Museum, New York; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Orange County Museum of Art, Costa Mesa, CA; Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, CA; San Diego Museum of Art, CA; Boca Raton Museum of Art, FL; National Museum of Mexican Art, Chicago; and CECUT/Centro Cultural Tijuana, MX; among others.

For further information, including images and previews, please call ABMB on-site contact Jay Wingate at 310-838-6000, or email: galler@luisdejesus.com.