



*El Proceso se Intesifica* by Manuel Miranda

## SURFACE TREATMENT

What: Tower Artists Fine Art Exhibition  
Where: Chase Texas Tower Lobby, 200 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, McAllen  
When: Through March 5, 2016. Hours: daily except Sunday, 9am-5pm  
Info: 956-583-ARTS

### **About Time**

The Tower Artists are continually morphing from the original UVAL artists who began exhibiting in the Chase Tower lobby through the fluctuation of exhibitors. This newest show, curated by Linda Lewis, who is serving as coordinator for the group, demonstrates the point. Works by twelve local artists are featured this time around, including paintings, photographs, mixed media, and large sculpture.

This collection offers the usual mixed bag of aesthetics: diverse visual pleasures that provoke delight, confusion, apathy, or further thought, depending on the viewer's attention. Some suggest interesting artistic directions; several of those deal with nuances of time. Among the works in this category, the most interesting to me are Marilyn Carren's digital prints. Her concept takes us into a technological reality that most of us have mentally reserved for our sci-fi indulgences.

Her subjects are simple and straightforward such as "Violence" and "Lovers." However, she has photographed them on her monitor during technological disturbances when the screen image tends to break-up in random patches of glitches, exposing the rhythm of time-space transmission. She is capturing the moment between where the message is. Think about this. Carren came upon the idea when she was talking with and photographing her mother on Skype. "Well," Carren reported, "the images were glitched like that so in 1/60th of a second she was actually in two places at once, which made me think she is literally being transferred here to me on this screen by some signal that I don't know and I don't understand, and she is somehow traveling through space and time." The images in Carren's prints are only partially readable, since only part of the information has been fully transmitted. She has taken this uncompleted visual

information and made it art. You need to look into these images while imagining what the completed transmission will be.

Other artists playing with time, consciously or unconsciously, include Thomas Murray. His lyrical painting, "Breathe," feels like a fresh spring day, but viewers who are familiar with his paintings may feel the absence of his signature female figures. There is the sense of a previous action - that in the prior moment, a figure did exist in the painting, but she has just stepped outside the picture plane, leaving a void. "Chasing Rainbows-A Lucid Daydream," by Gaby Rico, presents heavy rolling clouds under the sunlight, giving us the moment before a desired metaphorical rainbow.

Susan Fitzsimmon's fierce bronze Sentinals & Guardians bronze sculpture, with symbolism embracing the expanse of recorded time, speaks of equal opportunity and survival. Manuel Miranda, Anna Maria Sanchez Varela, and Louise Strandberg, solidify the present moment. Miranda paints human observation with a sarcastic brush, Strandberg freezes the image of a wild cat, and Varela brings time to a halt as we stop in front of her mixed media assemblage, transfixed with sensory pleasure.

Additional artists showing in this exhibit include Eduardo Nava, Ben Varela, Cristina Materon, Chris Leonard, and Beatriz Guzman Velasquez.

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