



ARTIST BIOS

Rodriguez Calero

Rodríguez Calero was born in Puerto Rico, raised in New York and then studied in Puerto Rico, obtaining a BFA at the Instituto de Cultura, Escuela de Artes Plastica. She then returned to New York and continued her studies in painting and collage at the Art Students League under Master Artist Leo Manso. While at The League, she was the recipient of the prestigious Edward G. McDowell Travel Scholarship, which permitted her to journey abroad to Spain and France.

Rodríguez Calero has been granted residencies by The New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and others. She has received numerous awards, grants and fellowships, from the New York Institute of Puerto Rico, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Brooklyn Arts and Culture Association, the Joan Mitchell Foundation and The National Association of Women Artists, just to name a few.

She has been featured in New Jersey Networks Public Television State of the Arts Series, “Sign of the Times” and named finalist in the Photographer’s Forum Best of 2010 edition. In 2010 she was also the subject of an important survey exhibition at El Museo del Barrio, NY, entitled Rodriguez Calero: Urban Martyrs and Latter Day Santos. Her works are held in private and public collections.

Rodriguez Calero currently resides in New Jersey. She hopes that through the arts we may learn to overcome our differences, be they cultural, religious, political or other, to rediscover our common humanity and unite as one.

Kevin Hetzel

With his art, Kevin Hetzel (b. 1992), aims to challenge and restructure the Eurocentric tradition of portraiture and the notion of those that may be held in high regard. Through the investigation of his own roots, cultural influences and genealogy he explores how the segmentation of social and economic class becomes a means to describe an identity. Born and raised in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, in the same working-class community as his parents, grand-parents and great grand-parents he attempts to connect to their heritage of manual work through his own labor of art production. Exploring the financial history of his ancestors is a way of uncovering his family’s heritage while also searching for the individual, the everyday person as a person, beyond the limited role that society has accorded them as laborer, manual producer and consumer.

Hetzel obtained his BFA with honors from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and an MFA from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. He has been the recipient of numerous fellowships, grants and awards including InLiquid’s Wind Young Fellowship for 2021, the O’Neil Award and Special Merit Award from the Light, Space and Time Gallery, and Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts’ Scholarship for Artistic Excellence. His work has been included in group shows and juried exhibitions throughout the country. He has taught art at Philadelphia’s University of the Arts, at Germantown Academy in Fort Washington, PA and since 2019 at the Landon School in Bethesda, MD.

Jason Noushin

Born in England in 1969, Jason Noushin was sent as an infant to Tehran, Iran to live with his grandparents and aunt. His early childhood memories are engulfed by images of the Iranian Revolution and the Iran-Iraq War. "The experience of seeing a revolution at the age of 9 and seeing the beginning of the war at age 10 and curfews, nightly bombings and just the whole experience of war has definitely affected me and my work. It's something that's always with me," he explains. Noushin's aunt, the first woman to open a privately owned art gallery in Tehran, was instrumental in encouraging Noushin's creativity. Her collection of top Iranian artists included Reza Mafi, a celebrated calligraphy artist who taught Noushin the fundamentals of Persian script.

Noushin left Tehran in 1980, soon after the start of the Iran-Iraq War. He lived in Tehran, Paris and London before settling in New Haven, Connecticut in the early 1990's. While living in the United States, Noushin developed an interest in antiquated books. He became an antiquarian bookseller, buying from auctions and dealers to add to his collection of books. These have become the center point of his art, their pages and bindings forming impromptu canvases upon which Noushin draws and paints. Noushin also works in sculpture, installation and performance to explore the temporal frameworks of memory, displacement and cross-cultural identity while referencing socio-and geo-political events.

Noushin's work has been presented in many solo and group exhibitions both nationally and internationally, including at the Woodstock Artists Association and Museum, the Silvermine Galleries, New Canaan, the Watson Institute at Brown University, CONTEXT, Miami, the London Art Fair and the deCordova Biennial. He has had solo shows at Susan Eley Fine Art, NY, Hilles Gallery, NY, Yale University and the Hammond Museum in North Salem. He was the 2010 recipient of the Hammond Tri-State Artist Competition.

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