

Eleanor Harwood Gallery presents:
Erik Parra: *Insides Out*



Externality Study v, 2020
acrylic on canvas
24 x 30

Exhibit Dates:
October 15th - December 19th, 2020

February 9th, 2017 (San Francisco, CA) – Eleanor Harwood Gallery is pleased to present *Insides Out*, our second solo show with Erik Parra.

Insides Out is a new body of twelve acrylic paintings made entirely during the 2020 pandemic and shelter in place order. These paintings are a continued reflection on modernism's positive and negative effects on our collective culture; but they are also my most personal work to-date. For many of us quarantine provoked new levels of introspection; I had an intense desire to weave my personal experiences into the tapestry of my practice and its formal concerns.

The title of the exhibition refers to a pair of core tenets in modernist architecture. The first is the desire to blur the line between what is indoors and what is outdoors. The second is that “architecture was ideally the construction of universal space” a concept central to the larger project of modernism. I am addressing the inside/outside binary as a visual metaphor for my own experience inhabiting the “in-between.” As a non-Spanish speaking Hispanic living in Texas, my social life was constantly lived on the border, the periphery and the margins. By the time I arrived at University of Texas, Austin it seemed clear that I was too brown for the white kids and too white for the brown kids.

I work through these labels and psychological internalizations as part of my practice. I employ the dramatic contrasts of light in my paintings in a continual pursuit of balance and tranquility that I was seeking in my youth. While the personal is the political, I strive for inclusion by not being didactic or even immediately political--I feel actual social change is only possible through self-reflection, empathy and communication.

These paintings are forms of thought—thinking made visible through the process of painting. By working from memory, not using a direct source, responding to the previous marks, reflecting on the history of the creation as I am creating it, I am letting go of the idea that I have a fixed solution to arrive at. Through the act of painting, I’m discovering the ideas in real time.

About the Artist

Erik Richard Parra was born and raised in the border metroplex of El Paso-Juárez. He received a Bachelors of Fine Art degree in painting from The University of Texas at Austin and completed a Masters of Fine Art while on fellowship at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Currently based in San Francisco, California Parra has exhibited internationally in alternative spaces, commercial galleries and museums in Berlin, Brazil, Los Angeles, London and New York. In the Bay Area Erik’s work has been exhibited at Blankspace Gallery, Johansson Projects, The Headlands Center for the Arts, Root Division, Southern Exposure, Kala Art Institute and the Berkeley Art Center.

Parra’s work has been included in publications including New American Paintings, the SF Bay Guardian and the LA Times. Additionally Parra teaches art and has lectured at universities, given artist talks, garnered residencies and awards. Most recently he was awarded an inaugural Liquitex Research Residency

About Eleanor Harwood Gallery

The Eleanor Harwood Gallery opened September 2006. The programming of the gallery focuses on emerging to mid-career artists exhibiting nationally and internationally. The roster includes artists that are represented in major American and European collections. The gallery actively promotes and encourages career growth for represented artists.

Location

1275 Minnesota Street, Suite 206
San Francisco, CA 94107

Hours

Tuesdays 1:00-5:00pm, Wednesday-Saturday, 11am-5:00pm
And by appointment

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