Arte Sin Fronteras

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<td>WEST END ART DEPOT</td>
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<tr>
<td>401 N. Mesilla St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Las Cruces, NM 88005</td>
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<tr>
<td>(575) 312-9892</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:nmartco.op@gmail.com">nmartco.op@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>March 2014</td>
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<th>PROCEEDS:</th>
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<td>Benefit projects working for peace in Mexico</td>
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<td>More than 125,000 Mexicans have lost their lives since 2007 in a human rights catastrophe brought on by a war on drugs, failed economic policies, and social neglect. But these very circumstances have ignited the human spirit of Mexican citizens working toward social change. Art remains a powerful means of free expression and collective healing, and a tool for basic economic support. Arte Sin Fronteras features artists and artisans who work within community-based projects that seek to alleviate poverty and violence, assist those affected by mental illness and help people improve their lives and their community. Profits from sales will support their efforts for peace and healing.</td>
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<th>If you would like a digital file of these pages, please send inquiries to:</th>
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<td><a href="mailto:alicelorrowbriggs@gmail.com">alicelorrowbriggs@gmail.com</a></td>
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THE PAINTINGS OF PASTOR JOSÉ ANTONIO GALVÁN
FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR Visión en Acción

TALLER Visión en Acción | CURRENT and PAST RESIDENT PATIENTS OF Visión en Acción: PIERO, HUGO and ALFREDO | DECEASED RESIDENT PATIENTS OF Visión en Acción: MARISOL ROMO LARES and REBEKA ESPINO BELTRÁN | GUEST ARTISTS: MORGAN SMITH | JULIÁN CARDONA | ALICE LEORA BRIGGS AND FLATBED PRESS

Unless otherwise noted all proceeds from the sales of these works will support Pastor José Antonio Galván’s efforts to care for resident patients of Visión en Acción, a Juárez shelter for recovering addicts and the mentally ill.
“Most people say they are human garbage but I call them tesoros escondidos or hidden treasures,” Pastor José Antonio Galván says of the 100-plus patients in his asylum, Visión en Acción in the desert west of Juárez. Here are seven of the many photographs I have taken there in the last three years.

1 | BLANCA | $225.00
Blanca is incoherent but she is always one of the first to welcome me.

2 | BENITO AND MENDOZA GATHERING FIREWOOD | $225.00
Among the patients, Benito is a key leader, in charge of the animals – chickens, pigs and now goats – and also goes out into the desert at least once a day to gather firewood or, more accurately, mesquite branches. Mendoza is his assistant. They flail at the bushes with a long metal bar, then Benito chops away with an axe that he keeps carefully sharpened.

3 | READING | $225.00
About a year ago, Pastor Galván started a small lending library. Here is a young man reading in his cell. The fascination with books is enormous.

4 | BRINGING IN THE BLANKETS | $225.00
As you can imagine, keeping one hundred patients clean is a staggering task. The blankets, for example, are washed almost every day. Then they are taken out into the desert to dry either by hanging on long wire clotheslines or being draped over mesquite bushes. In the evenings a team of patients will bring them in, each patient so heavily laden that he can barely see where he is going.

5 | LETICIA AND FRIEND | $225.00
Leticia Zoto, the tiny woman on the left is incoherent, barely able to walk and suffered greatly when her parents died and she and her sister, Elia, also in the asylum, were sent to live with neighbors who chained them up and abused them sexually. Nonetheless, she is always cheerful and caring.

6 | CELESTINO AND NOE, BROTHERS | $225.00
These brothers are in their early thirties and suffering from some kind of progressive brain damage.

7 | PHOTO | $225.00
From the first moment of my initial visit, patients began asking me to take their pictures. I go to Walgreen’s when I come home, make 4X6 prints and bring them on the next visit. Although photography is not allowed in most mental institutions, it seems therapeutic here.
Morgan Smith plans to donate $100 of the proceeds from each sale to Visión en Acción.

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**PASTOR JOSÉ ANTONIO GALVÁN**

Narrative descriptions by Pastor José Antonio Galván, translations by Molly Molloy

The conditions of violence unleashed in our country of Mexico have awakened hidden talents that many
of us had not discovered. There is a Mexican saying: **All of us have within us a little bit of the poet, the artist and the lunatic.**

The great need, combined with the powerlessness of not being able to do anything to make the necessary changes in our society, have inspired us to look inside of ourselves to find peaceful ways to express our discontent. In my case, I’ve found in painting a way to express what I cannot say with my voice.

The themes of my paintings are based on the daily knowledge of what is happening in our city—events that far surpass anything we might see on the movie screen. For 18 years we have shared our surroundings with the most powerful forces in the spiritual world—two powers engaged in a battle to capture our minds and souls: Jesus Christ and Satan. In those 18 years of living with those who are possessed, the insane and mentally ill, I have obtained a deep awareness of the manifestations of the powers of darkness and also the forces of Light.

I write what I know. I paint what I hear and what I see.  

*Artist’s Statement, Pastor José Antonio Galván*

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14 | **FUERZAS ESPECIALES USA** | **USA SPECIAL FORCES** | $500.00

In honor of one of Pastor Galván’s sons who serves in the U.S. Army Special Forces.

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“Undercover American narcotics agents have laundered or smuggled millions of dollars in drug proceeds as part of Washington’s expanding role in Mexico’s fight against drug cartels, according to current and former federal law enforcement officials…Another former agency official, who asked not to be identified… said, ‘My rule was that if we are going to launder money, we better show results. Otherwise, the D.E.A. could wind up being the largest money launderer in the business, and that money results in violence and deaths.’” New York Times, U.S. Agents Launder Mexican Profits of Drug Cartels, December 3, 2011.
After completing his presidential term with more than 120,000 murder victims and at least 25,000 disappeared people in the country, Calderón looked for a new path in life. Leaving mountains of skulls and bones behind in Mexico, he took refuge in a dream! Harvard.
December 12, 1531, only 10 years after the Mexican conquest, the Virgen de Guadalupe appeared to subdue the Indians. Despite their hard work, missionaries had had little success converting the people due to the bad example of many calling themselves Christians who had abused them. The Virgen de Guadalupe appeared as a native woman and taught that the gift of faith was for all. Within 7 years of the apparition, 8 million Indians converted to the Catholic faith. After 483 years, her image is a national emblem. Here, she gazes into the eyes of the painter—a symbol of the Mexican people, terrorized by the constant fear of sudden cruel death. Executions, kidnappings, decapitations and a nation completely without Law! Priests in Michoacán are taking up arms to defend the people from Narco-traffickers.

Ciudad Juárez—a city without law—shelters the devil and his demons on every street corner. A city left to its fate by governmental powers that shirk their obligations to defend the people, selling out to the powers of Hell, leaving the city full of demons—corruption, kidnapping, executions, disappeared people—all watched over by our neighbors in El Paso, Texas. But Hope endures. “Where sin abounded, Grace did much more abound.” Romans 5:20
Two works by Piero, a young man suffering from bi-polar disorder who came to Visión en Acción after spending time in several different mental institutions. He developed his skill in oil painting and through treatment, he was able to return to society—leaving his paintings behind as a memory of his time at the asylum. He visits us sometimes and talks about his job as a supermarket cashier.
Hugo recalled his activities and the parts he played in these events. He would act out characters with distinct personalities in the night. Hugo talked with Death; he said the voices were always with him.

**PASTOR JOSÉ ANTONIO GALVÁN**

23 | **LOS BRAZOS DE LA MUERTE / ARMS OF DEATH** | $450.00

Pastor José Antonio Galván homage to Diego Rivera’s *Nude with Calla Lilies* adds social and political commentary to one of the few paintings by Rivera that lacks it.
Alfredo came to the asylum with severe brain damage from drug abuse. He had belonged to a cartel gang and his mind had frozen after he was tortured by rival gangsters. Alfredo said that these figures lived inside him—that a whole village lived inside his head.
Hugo sometimes screamed while he painted...“there is a voice inside me telling me to hide. Here come the federales, Pastor! Here they come with their AK-47s! I like it! I like how you paint!” Hugo would scream like crazy when he took up his paint brush.
After his career with one of the most violent cartels in Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico, Hugo suffered severe mental illness. As an inmate of the asylum, he began to express his experiences and hallucinations in oil paintings—reliving the most terrible moments of those who are executed.

Two weeks before assuming the presidency, Enrique Peña Nieto said he would create a national anti-corruption commission with power to investigate irregularities at all levels of government: murders, disappearances, kidnappings and cartels. In this painting, Juárez calls out to the incoming president. Once known as the “most violent city in the world” as of today, February 13, 2014, President Peña Nieto has not done much.
It is difficult to be president in a time of war. Calderon’s decision to launch a frontal assault against the drug cartels dominated his six-year term and it will shape the country for years to come. As many as 130,000 people have been killed in violence related to narco-trafficking. Many have been killed in battles over territory between criminal gangs, but the number also includes at least one thousand members of the military and police and an unknown number of innocent victims including many children. The country is bathed in blood!
The devil hovers over former President Calderon as he meets President Drew Gilpin Faust of Harvard University.
Lady Justice is beheaded while President Calderón, Chihuahua Governor Duarte and Juárez Mayor Murguía see no evil, speak no evil, hear no evil. Miss Ana crosses the international bridge. She lived in Juárez but crossed each day to teach school in El Paso. She spent several months in a Juárez prison after criminals planted drugs in her car.

TALLER VISIÓN EN ACCIÓN

30 | FLYING WARRIOR | $75.00
Mixed media wall plaque featuring traditional Mexican calendar art

GUEST ARTIST | ALICE LEORA BRIGGS and FLATBED PRESS | WOODCUT PRINTS

31 | SKLEP FOP | $800.00 UNFRAMED or $1000.00 FRAMED | woodcut with chine collé | edition of 10 | Printed at Flatbed Press by Master Printer Tracy Mayrello

32 | IN CASE YOU FORGOT… | $400.00 (UNFRAMED) woodcut | edition of 12
Words by Cormac McCarthy from Suttree
Guest Artist | Julián Cardona | Photography

33 | Untitled | $1200.00

Digital Fine Print on William Turner 190 gsm 100% Cotton Paper Manuel, an inmate of Visión in Acción asylum for the mentally ill in Ciudad Juárez, tried to kill his mother during an attack of schizophrenia. He lost his mind after years of drug abuse.

Julián Cardona plans to donate 50% of the proceeds from sale of this work to Visión en Acción.

Deceased Resident Patient of Visión en Acción: Marisol Romo Lares

34 | Untitled | $50.00

A former resident of Visión en Acción, Marisol died just a few days after finishing this painting.

Deceased Resident Patient of Visión en Acción: Rebeka Espino Beltrán

35 | Butterfly | $50.00
Rebeka had been a drug addict and lap dancer but she became a nurse and caregiver to many patients at the asylum and a bright light to all.

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**TALLER VISIÓN EN ACCIÓN**

36 | **FRUTERO DE MANZANAS** (plaques), wood and paper mache | $200.00 each

37 | **FRUTERO DE MANZANAS** (pedestals), wood and paper mache | 200.00 each
THE SPICE OF LIFE | $300.00

TALLERVISIÓN EN ACCIÓN creating one of a kind greeting cards | $5.00 each
At the end of Vicente Fox’s presidential term, the drug cartels had effectively taken control of some parts of the country, working as a parallel government and collecting money through extortion and kidnapping. Meanwhile, the violence linked to the drug business increased. Calderón’s election set the scene for the resurgence of those who had held power for more than 70 years. They inherited a country refined by Death. The “little dinosaurs” of the PAN (the conservative National Action Party of Felipe Calderon) and the PRD (the progressive Party of the Democratic Revolution) are trying to bite off a little piece of the big dinosaur…the PRI (the Institutional Revolutionary Party) which dominated Mexican politics, government and society for more than 70 years.
Mexico is a huge cemetery without crosses, full of people who have been murdered and buried in secret. There are mass graves filled with the bodies of many of our citizens and remains of disappeared persons. Family disintegration due to so many murders has led to a new modality in the profession of contract killers. Female executioners have appeared due to economic necessity and the abundant employment in the cartels that offer work to Mexican women.

MEXICO CREO EN TI | MEXICO I BELIEVE IN YOU | $500.00

GUEST ARTIST | ALICE LEORA BRIGGS and FLATBED PRESS | WOODCUT PRINT

LA VENTANA | 61.5 x 41.4 inches
If interested, please inquire: aliceleorabriggs@gmail.com
The entire retail price | $2000.00 | for this portrait of Santiago will be donated to VISIÓN EN ACCIÓN to support the work of PASTOR JOSÉ ANTONIO GALVÁN.

TALLER VISIÓN EN ACCIÓN

Handmade boxes | $10.00 each