

# APALAZZOGALLERY

## Raúl De Nieves *Betwixt the Hands of Time*

APALAZZOGALLERY is pleased to announce the second solo exhibition by Raúl De Nieves in the gallery spaces. Titled *Betwixt the Hands of Time*, the show revolves around a moment of central importance for the evolution of the artist's creative practice, that key moment in life that occurs in the transition from childhood to adulthood.

Unfolding within the constant dialogue between memory of the past and the perception of the present, the exhibition touches on a variety of recurring themes in the artist's practice and poetics: from the celebration of motherhood and the connection to his cultural heritage to the awareness of becoming an adult which, for the artist, coincides with the willingness and commitment to respect the family traditions we have assimilated during our countless moments of learning and exchange.

The theme of the advent of adulthood recurs in what the artist calls 'celebratory skins': the figures that inhabit the gallery spaces as unknown creatures that only vaguely resemble human features. These wearable costumes speak to us of self-adornment: they are staged as a symbol of transformation, having that magical power to transform us into someone else, to make us feel older and more mature. Allowing us to play a new role, these ornamental garments transport us into the dimension of the fantastic and attempt to make real what we often dream of being like. It is then up to us to let the dream connect with reality.

Alongside the beaded costumes, the knitted dresses testify to the strong emotional bond the artist has with his mother. Having learned to knit from her, with these works the artist is the spokesperson of the common and sincere desire to celebrate motherhood, and at the same time declares the evolution of their own relationship, highlighting how he can now dress the role of the educating mother, and how by virtue of the experiences lived and adulthood, he can enjoy a mutual exchange of teachings.

The artist's signature large stained-glass panels are staged in the main gallery room as symbols of inner strength. These works attempt to represent how we choose to reveal our vulnerability to others, encouraging us to see that showing fragility is a way to demonstrate the more inner, emotional part of ourselves. These works also speak of time and the ephemeral in the way they are able to show images when touched by light, and likewise freeze when left in darkness, but they also remind us of themes such as the beauty of creation, the power of passion, the dichotomy between struggle and victory and between suffering and conquest.

The two installations *Celebration (mother)* and *The Gift (child)*, unleash that magical, ancestral power of accumulating new energy each time they are shown to the public. Although separate and imbued with their own independent energetic force, these works live in the constant tension of reconnecting and uniting in a new form.

*Raúl de Nieves, born in 1983 in Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico is a visual artist who lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. He was included in the Whitney Biennial, 2017 and MoMA PS1's Greater New York, 2015. He has exhibited widely, including at the New Orleans Museum of Art; The Museum of Art and Design, New York; Rod Bianco, Oslo; Mendes Wood, DM Sao Paulo; and the Zabudowicz Collection, London. Recent solo exhibitions include The Treasure House of Memory, ICA Boston, Boston, MA and Eternal Return & the Obsidian Heart, and the Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami, Miami, FL, 2021–22, Fina, The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, 2019. He has performed at Documenta 14, Performa 13, MoMA PS1, ICA Philadelphia, The Watermill Center, The Kitchen, Artists Space, Real Fine Arts and numerous other venues.*

Opening: Saturday 26 February from 6 pm  
26 February – 7 May 2022

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