

Michael Anthony Garcia

Michael is someone who will always see around at galleries and art show. Some might even say he is a household name. He is heavily involved in the artist community, supporting his fellow artists of color. And when he is not doing that, he is creating incredible powerful and personal works of art: in 2D, 3D, and live performances. His work has been exhibited in City Hall, amongst other places and he is a rising star in Austin's (as well as Texas) local art scene. Check out his interview.

WEBSITE



AS AN ARTIST WHO IS INCREDIBLY INVOLVED IN AUSTIN'S ART SCENE, HOW DO YOU SEE YOURSELF AND YOUR ROLE AS AN ARTIST?

I believe my involvement in the art scene in Austin directly stems from the wonderful relationships I have fostered here, and a conscious decision to participate and support the talented people who inhabit it as much as humanly possible.

As someone fortunate enough to have put in my time and have as many opportunities as I do, I also like to shine light whenever possible on others who might not have those same opportunities. It's a responsibility I think we all have.

THAT MAKES SENSE. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE MAJORITY OF THE WORK YOU PRODUCE TO SOMEONE WHO WAS UNFAMILIAR WITH ART?

At times the work can delve into deeply personal territory of experiences or it can cast a broader glance across our society and its perceived norms. Lately, my work has also taken on the hue of science, science fiction and pseudo-science themes with the bulk of my photography, sculptural, installation and performance work conveying the minutiae of fleeting moments of interaction between the body, the mind and our prowess (or missteps) in coping with the human condition. Through the use of found-object and multimedia, often including clothing and furniture, I explore the gradient of ideas that lie within this spectrum.



All That You Can Be, at the Blanton Museum of Art's as part of their Sound Space performance series. Photo by Gabriel Cristóver Pérez

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEDIUM TO WORK WITH AND WHY DO YOU NATURALLY GRAVITATE TOWARDS THAT PLATFORM/STYLE?

I love working with clothing as a stand in for the physical form. We can all connect with articles of clothing on so many levels. It's something we both consciously and unconsciously interact with daily. It carries so many connotations that can be pulled out depending on its context.

SOME (IF NOT ALL) OF YOUR INSTALLATIONS HAVE A SOCIO-POLITICAL MESSAGE OR PERSPECTIVE. WAS THAT ALWAYS ON PURPOSE OR WAS IT SOMETHING THAT YOU EVOLVED INTO OVER TIME?

I have always approached my work with a desire to communicate the things that are important to me and expressing who I am is a huge part of that. I hope that the honesty behind what I express about myself and the topics important to me can connect with others on a larger scale, since many of our bodies are political to begin with, but even if they don't, at least I speak about who I am for my own purposes.



hyperbole/ hyperbola (hyperbolic male)
Photo by Jeff Harris



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