

A ZOOM EXHIBITION

From the Ocean to the Desert

October 24, 2020 | 6 – 8pm



A collaborative Zoom event show with bG Gallery in Santa Monica, and ArtRep-DG in Scottsdale.

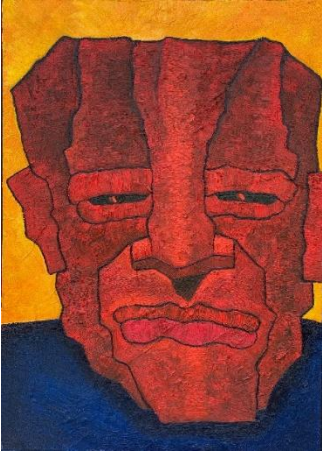
Om Navon Bleicher from bG Gallery has selected three artists, and Debbe Goldstein has selected three artists for this event. Om's artists include Calthia DeConto from Los Angeles, Tatiana Botton from Hawaii, and Gay Summer Rick from Los Angeles. The artists for ArtRep-DG include Michael Cano from Redlands, California, Whitney Pintello from Gilroy, California, and Dianne Athey from New York, New York. We will zoom into each artists' studio where they will be displaying their work. We will be able to talk with them and ask questions.

It is important to note that the artists' themes are not necessarily ocean or desert landscapes. But their work is about place and the way it informs the narrative of each painter. The themes too, which appeal to me are the semiotics of almost.

As idea, there is the romantic notion of walking in the sand, watching the sunset at the ocean. There is the ancient spiritual quiet of the desert that seems slightly inhospitable with its heat and its light. There is a sense of drama included in both. The Saguaro cactus which only grows in the Sonoran Desert is a totem to these hostile elements. And yet, in spring, they bear the most beautiful flowers and provide "apartment" housing for birds to escape the heat. The lull of the waves and sheer vastness of the ocean allow one to contemplate one's size and purpose in the universe. There is no proof of man's design. There is a hint of action/response. One can get swept away by the waves. One can get lost and dehydrated in the desert. As an artist, it is a perfect metaphor for the new now of 2020. An artist is always engaged in a theatre of opposites. The mind provides the idea. The hand provides the interpretation, the brain is the software, and the brush is the hardware. Calm is temporary, drama is inescapable, and both are forever changing.

We have all reexamined place in the last few months both literally and creatively. The three artists I have chosen used the ideas of place, nature, biography, and the semiotics of almost.

Michael Cano



Michael Cano thinks of his autobiography when he thinks of his place. Sifting through his roots and using his supreme sense of color and sense of humor, he has created a series entitled "Retired Aztec Boxers". They are gently confrontational images but are appealing and likeable and funny. It is his practice to look within that provides his narrative and sense of place. He overrides a rocky start to life to react with a friendly muscularity to his work. The Aztec Boxers almost had big careers. They almost look menacing.

Dianne Athey



Dianne Athey lives in Manhattan. Her canyons are concrete. Her monuments are skyscrapers. She has a series of Seaglass paintings which she will be exhibiting. They are gorgeous, lush and are about "almost". Within the paintings, they are "almost" the sea. They are details of a larger whole. They are objects created by the sea and its pleasures, but they are pleasurable in and of themselves. They are almost stationary but are not. They are almost abstract but are also realistic. "He says, she says" the trapeze painting shows a breaking free and a possibility of consequence. The people flying could

almost not connect, they could almost fall. But the next moment is inherent in the work as well. There is the sense of freedom, and the sense of limit. The moment presented is right in the middle and the viewer is not sure where it will land. She sees her practice as an ability to act and react.

Whitney Pintello



Artist Whitney Pintello has specially created paintings for the zoom exhibition. Her work clearly shows her thoughts about both ocean and desert. The paintings echo the natural elements with color and verve.

She has been quarantined and works from a place of comfort as well as participant. Her paintings, with their bright colors, broad strokes have a feeling of being illuminated from within. All lean in towards the ocean and the desert. There is meaning in the strokes and the titles. One can almost feel the sun on the canvas. One's wishful thinking for ocean and desert is simultaneously rewarded in these paintings. We can almost feel the waves, we can almost see the ancient monuments.

Implicit in the experience of the desert and the sea is the idea that one is alone.

Being there is a solitary experience, much like engaging with paintings. There is a search for solace, peace, and answers to life's big questions. I think that the three artists represented here have really thought about place, idea, and nature; and have arrived at truly beautiful solutions. Like the waves that are always transforming and the desert that is always still. We can almost be there.