

STARS & STRIPES

THE AMERICAN FLAG IN CONTEMPORARY ART



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foreword by Melissa Vandenberg

YAMEL MOLERO

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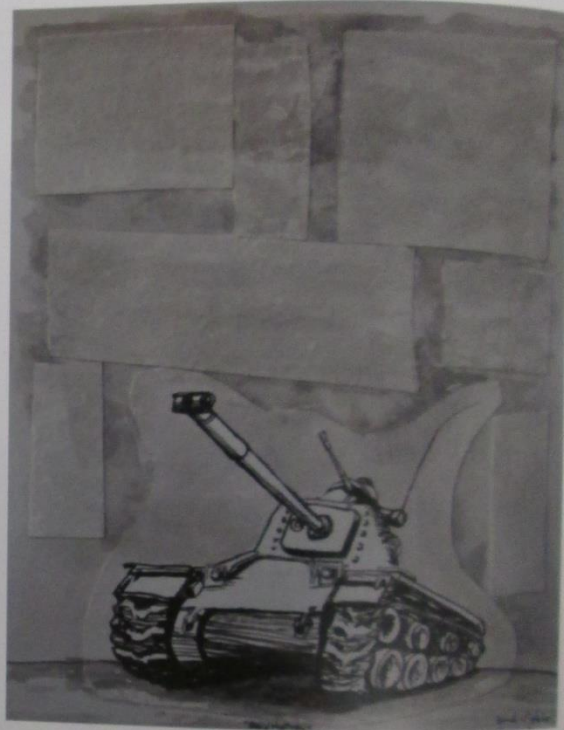
My artwork is figurative with a strong sense of narration. I paint with a variety of media on wood, canvas, and paper. My latest paintings deal with the relationship between the subject matter and the background, or between object and space. The first thing I do before starting any piece is to arrange and attach different size pieces of paper or canvas. In these compositions, the positive and negative space carry equal weight. I use images of familiar objects, architectural motifs, everyday subject matter, in a free, gestural approach to representation that explores the story behind these images. I do not come up with some wordy conceptual meanings because I want to leave a sense of mystery that is, nonetheless, accessible to the average individual.

I paint the American flag because it is the most recognizable symbol in the United States. It is a symbol that brings me great pride every time I see it. In my first piece, I have used a burned American flag, not to disrespect the flag but to show all of the struggles and hardships that our country has faced. The right side of the piece shows a waving flag at night surrounded by fifty stars in the sky. The tank represents the struggle for freedom. It was inspired by the student demonstrations in Tiananmen Square in 1989.

In *The Fallen*, the AR-15 with a soldier's helmet honors those soldiers who have fallen while serving in our armed forces.



Welcome to the New Age. Ink on paper. 8" x 10". 2014.



Revolution. Ink on paper. 14" x 11". 2012.



The Flag. Mixed media. 29" x 28" x 12". 2014.

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The Flag. Detail.

The Fallen. Ink on paper
12" x 18". 2014.

