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Professor Heath

**Big Story 1**

St. Edward’s University students have been blessed by artist Justin Favela at the SEU Fine Arts Gallery in Austin, Texas. “Revoloteo” or in English, “Flutter”, is Justin Favela’s newest immersive installation which is being held on the St Ed’s campus from Sept. 1 to Oct. 6.

Justin Favela is an internationally recognized artist of Guatemalan and Mexican heritage and is known for his large-scale installations that integrate American pop culture and LatinX culture. His artwork has been featured in museums all over the world and in the United States, including the Denver Art Museum in Colorado and the Crystal Bridges Museum Of American Art in Arkansas. He has a bachelor's in fine arts from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and in 2018, he received the Alan Turing LGBTIQ Award for International Artist and the prestigious Joan Mitchell Fellowship. Favela is also the co-host of a critically acclaimed podcast called Latinos Who Lunch. In an interview with MassMoCa, Favela explained how he felt like the labels of what type of artist you were affected were where you could present your art. He said he felt like he didn’t know where he really fit in but after embracing his LatinX culture he was able to feel comfortable.

“But now I embrace all those labels and I like that I can go between those spaces. Like I can show at a craft museum and then I can show at a big fine art museum and my work is welcomed in those spaces and I think that’s really rewarding,” said Favela.

“Revoloteo” comes from the inspiration of not one, but two things. Favela finds out that the Monarch Butterfly was added to the endangered species list, but also by a rude awakening Favela was introduced when he saw that St. Edward’s library had no physical books.

 “I went to your library, and I was shook. There are no books in your library!” he said. What is going on?”.

This conjured thought in Favela’s head about burning books, thus, being inspired by fire.

Favela uses delicate tissue paper, similar to paper mache, and bright colored orange paint for the flowing wings. He has created a mesmerizing experience that represents existence and scarcity.

St. Edward’s student Madeline Smith who attended the speech on Thursday says,

“His comical yet loving approach to representing his identity makes it easy for people to appreciate his artwork.”

Justin Favela’s artwork is like something you have never seen before. He makes fun of famous artworks and ‘takes back’ what has been stolen from Hispanic culture and creates something new and engaging for an audience.