

Blackbird Rook at Foundations, Winter 2023

January 23 – February 14, 2024

Blackbird Rook presents work by Christina Barrera, Nick
Devereux and Susan Metrican.

CHRISTINA BARRERA

Christina Barrera is a first-generation Colombian-American artist from West Palm Beach, Florida. She holds a BFA from Maryland Institute College of Art, an MFA from Hunter College, and works as a multidisciplinary artist and educator in New York City. Her works span a variety of mediums, including painting, printmaking, sculpture, and textile.

Barrera's work often deals with questions of the body, identity, and colonialism, particularly in terms of how they relate to craft. Her figurative drawings pay homage to the glyphs and icons of Pre-Colonial South and Central America, a reclamation of what has been stolen and erased through colonization, while her textiles are demonstrative of her effort to weave information into the very fabric of the work, even down to the techniques she uses. She blends indigenous and European weaving traditions to talk about imperialism and her own identity as *mestizo*. Barrera's work is also highly tied to her own body and the labor of the body. Her work truly captures the famous adage "the personal is political," and through it, she asks us to contemplate the borders within ourselves, our lands, and our universe.



Barrera has exhibited at Galeria del Barrio, Hauser & Wirth, Lauren Powell Projects, the NARS Foundation House on Governors Island with ACOMPI, P.A.D. Gallery, Hunter East Harlem Gallery, and Old Stone House in New York City; Scott Charmin Gallery in Houston, TX; School 33 Art Center and Current Space in Baltimore, MD; and her work is in the collection of the Nepalese Academy of Fine Arts in Kathmandu, Nepal, as well as many personal collections across North and South America.



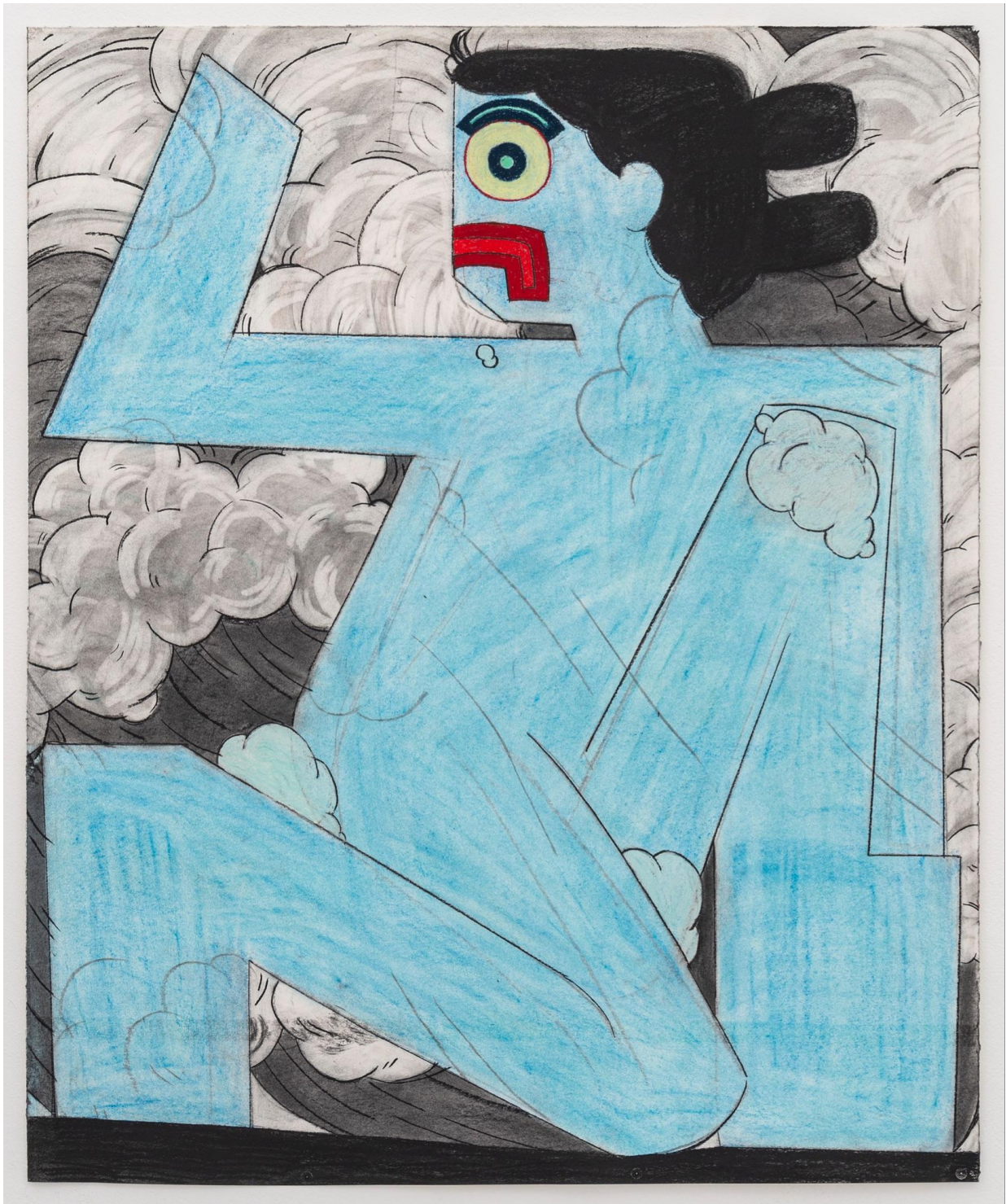
I Can't Afford to Keep on Standing
chalk pastel, charcoal on paper
60" x 51"
2022



En La Calle I [On the Street I]
chalk pastel, charcoal on paper
36" x 48"
2021



En La Calle IV [On the Street IV]
chalk pastel, charcoal on paper
22" x 36"
2022



Nos Encontramos en la Calle II
(We Find Ourselves / Each Other on the Street II) 2020
Chalk Pastel, Charcoal on Paper
36"H x 30.5"W



Nos Encontramos en la Calle I
[We Find Ourselves/Each other on the Street I] chalk
pastel, charcoal on paper
24" x 32"
2020

NICK DEVEREUX

Nick Devereux (UK, born 1978 in Panama City, lives and works in London) is a multidisciplinary artist, working between sculpture, painting, drawing and photography to both compose and realise his work.

His studio is a stage for imaginary environments filled with surfaces and sculptures made from a range of found materials: broken glass and ceramics, wood, metals and scraps of fabric. Often, depictions of these dioramas are drawn or painted through careful observation, resulting in images that seem both familiar and unnatural.

Recent solo shows include: Ritorno al collage. Nick Devereux e i maestri italiani del disegno novecentesco / Case Chiuse #07, a cura di Irina Zucca Alessandrelli, Bosco Verticale, Milan, 2019; In the Round, Adelaide, Marseille, 2018; Nick Devereux, Museo Pietro Canonica, Rome, 2017; Known Unknown, Art Club Villa Medici, Rome, 2016; Flakturm, Case Chiuse #00, Milan, 2014; Inpainting, Fondazione Querini Stampalia, Venice, 2013. Recent group exhibitions: Entre Les Frontieres, curated by Julia Cistiakova, Galerie Espace de l'art contemporaine du theatre de Privas, Privas, France, 2019; Greffes, curated by Pier Paolo Pancotto, Galerie Rolando Anselmi, Berlin, 2018; Iconic, Knust x Kunz, Munich, 2017; Honoré, Galerie rue Visconti, Paris, 2015; Wanderer Above the Sea of Fog, Galerie Bugada & Cargnel, Paris, 2015.





Things I could do (Ledlan) 2020
Oil on canvas
60.5 x 51cm



Things I could do (Entel) 2020

Oil on canvas
60.5 x 51cm



Things I could do (Paras)II 2020

Oil on canvas

53 x 43 cm (framed)



Eden IX 2023
Mixed media on paper mounted on canvas
100 x 120 cm



Eden VIII 2023

Mixed media on paper mounted on canvas
100 x 120 cm



Muse XII 2023
60 x 35 x 30 cm excluding artist's plinth
Mixed media



Muse XII 2023 with artist's
plinth

SUSAN METRICAN

Susan Metrican is an artist living and working in Fairfield, IA via Boston, NYC, Toronto, and Bangkok. Metrican received an MFA from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, her BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute, and attended Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in 2014 and Shandaken: Storm King in 2022. Metrican's work has been included in solo and group exhibitions nationally; most recently at Framingham State University (MA), Headstone Gallery (NY), The Hole (NY), LaiSun Keane(MA), Rivalry Projects (NY), MassArt X So Wa (MA), Tracey Morgan Gallery (NC), LeRoy Neiman Center for Print Studies at Columbia University (NY), Maharishi University (IA), SPRING/BREAK Art Show 2017 (NY), Able Baker Contemporary (ME), GRIN Contemporary (RI), Proof Gallery (MA), Boston Center for the Arts (MA), Field Projects (NY), Knockdown Center (NY), and GalleryProtocol (FL). Metrican has an artist edition with Drawer NYC (NY), and has been featured in ART MAZEMag, Cream City Review and Peripheries Journal. She is one of four founding members of kijidome, an experimental project space and collaborative in Boston, MA (2013-2017). From 2014-2022, she was the Curator at the Kniznick Gallery at Brandeis University. She is currently Director of the Wege Gallery and Assistant Professor in the Art Department at Maharishi International University (IA).



I am drawn to images and objects that resonate across seemingly disparate cultures and time periods. As a Thai American raised mostly in the midwest, I am interested in imagery that is “culturally familiar” through its connection to folktales and shared traditions, particularly imagery that evokes a reverence for rural life.

The work acknowledges motifs that have been translated across multiple formats; textiles, costumes, theater, architecture, and small useful objects which allow the symbols, characters and stories to connect and continue “traveling” through time and space. Within this context, my work attempts to engage with traditions of making and exchange through the construction of animal and nature motif paintings that have the appearance of being “well-worn” or “inherited.”

I consider the movement of interpreted ideas onto various forms across national borders and throughout history, and their shape-shifting reanimation as they introduce new modes of being. The three-dimensional quality of my paintings address this notion of multiplicity, and a fluid approach to form, flatness, and image becomes necessary.





Kittens Are Like That, 2020
acrylic on canvas, thread
42 x 34 inches



When Tigers Smoke, 2018
acrylic on canvas, thread
50 x 40 inches



A Hole is a Home (Komodo), 2020
acrylic on canvas, thread, faux leather
42 x 35 inches



Red Sky at Night, 2023
acrylic on canvas, thread
42 x 36 inches



Fragrant Synthesis, 2023
acrylic on canvas, thread
36 x 30 inches