



Mely Barragan (TJ) * Cindy Santos Bravo (San Diego/LA) * Gomez Bueno (LA) * Temoc Camacho (Guadalajara) * Robbie Conal (LA) * Jeff Chabot (PHX) * Sean Deckert (PHX/LA) * Karla Diaz (LA) * Victoria Delgadillo (LA) * Veronica Duarte (LA) * Cristian Franco (Guadalajara) * Jason Gonzalez (Mesa) * Olga Gutierrez (Guadalajara) * Carlos Hernandez (LA), Luis G. Hernandez (SoCal/Mexicali) * Julio Cesar Morales (Tempe, TJ) * Ann Morton (PHX) * Karl, Petion (LA) * Radio Healer (Mesa) * Daniel Ruanova (TJ) * Film Screening by: Karen Finley and Bruce Yonemoto (LA)

UPDATE: I wanted to fill you all in a little bit on events up to this point. Community members were walking and driving by the gallery and noticing the work of Daniel Ruanova which is posted by the front door of the gallery. The gallery is fairly new so I'm not sure how many people knew it was a gallery or just a store front. For those of you who were unable to attend the opening, know that the gallery faces a busy street with somewhat heavy traffic. Though the gallery is close in proximity to ASU, it is not really attached to a development of galleries, so it is a little bit of an outlier in that respect. I think that's relevant because I don't think most people passing the gallery have knowledge of the artworks or the gallery.



This is the image that people are driving by. Daniel's statement which he has shared on this thread has been printed out and posted below the work now but wasn't previously. People had been taking photos of this sign and posting on Facebook, talking about the racist store. This image kept getting flagged as inappropriate by FB and kept getting taken down. That further irritated people and then there was a call to action to go check out the racist store in Tempe. Consequently this was picked up by some white supremacists who went to check out the show. This single piece changed the context of the show and the white power groups thought that the show was pro-Trump and pro White. For instance, to those who have read the press release, or even really just glanced at the last names of the artists, would know that Robbie Conal's work is definitely in opposition to Trump. But people were seeing the words "Bully Culprit" as the a pro-Trump statement. "Bully" is the way Trump will be to "clean up" this country. And the quote on the bottom "When Mexico sends it's people, they're not sending their best...they're bringing drugs. They're bringing crimes. They're rapists..." was seen as a positive to the white supremacists. Julio's work was seen as a call to action against the "Invaders". Gomez Bueno's picture of Trump as Hitler is a positive message to a white supremacist. Ann Morton's work was a testament to Hillary Clinton's establishment, even though it was made several years earlier as a reaction to Bush. So, from what I can gather, this was then further sent out through social media platforms and then the Left began to assemble to protest. There was violence and death threats given to Grant and he has been fearful for his staff. He met with some of the community this weekend and it sounds like it went well. The gallery posted Daniel's statement and we have drafted a letter of curatorial intent and sent to the gallery. I will attach it to this email if you are interested. There will be a feature in a local paper that should come out soon and I will forward that link as soon as we have it. For now, the show will stay up. Grant has done a good job so far with the community and we may plan some sort of discussion or round table where this can be discussed further and we will let you all know if and when that happens. I personally have learned a lesson and am still trying to process everything from the election results to potentially being labeled as a white supremacist. I was naive in thinking that Trump couldn't win the presidency and what that would do the current climate. I appreciate all of your works and we will continue to make sure it is not used to spread hate.

April Lillard-Gomez, "This Machine Kills" Curator
November 14, 2016