

Return to the West Coast

Since relocating back to New York in early 2021, Arcadia Contemporary has not yet been back to California, where the gallery was located for five years. This summer's *LA Art Show* marks the gallery's return to the West Coast and its first art fair in more than a year with the postponements and cancellations due to the pandemic. "We could not be more excited to finally exhibit at the *LA Art Show* at the LA Convention Center from July 29 to August 1," says gallery president Steven Diamant. "Over the time that has passed since the last fair, Arcadia has not only moved back to NYC from LA, but we've brought on some new artists that are going to make not only their art fair debut, but their U.S. debut as well."

Included in the show will be art by Agnieszka Nienartowicz, Jeffrey Chong Wang, Kevin Foote, Jiang Huan, Carlos Morago, Alberto Ortega, Jeffrey Ripple, Arinze Stanley and Jose Lopez Vergara, among others.

Working with graphite and charcoal, Stanley draws stunning realistic portraits. They are filled with small nuances and details that highlight the essence of the sitter. His work *The*



- 1 Jeffrey Ripple, *Oranges and Avocados*, oil on panel, 17 x 17"
- 2 Jiang Huan, *The Flower of Youth*, oil on canvas, 23¾ x 47½"
- 3 Alberto Ortega, *Overtime*, oil on panel, 21 x 32"
- 4 Carlos Morago, *Ventana*, oil on panel, 20 x 27"
- 5 Arinze Stanley, *The Black Flower*, graphite and charcoal on paper, 46 x 34"



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Black Flower “was simply inspired by love and the sheer perfection of the Black woman.”

Ripple is known for his striking still lifes that have unexpected contemporary compositions. One of his paintings on view will be *Oranges and Avocados*. “My inspiration for painting avocados really came from Georgia O’Keeffe’s beautiful small painting *Alligator Pears* from 1923,” says the artist. “I took her painting as a starting point and added the tangerines and their flowers to make a composition through which I could continue exploring light as it plays over a variety of surfaces but which is more asymmetrical than my other recent paintings.”

Ortega’s scene *Overtime* “is about the cycle of working to live and living to work,” the artist says. “Suburbia is particularly rich with scenes of carefully cultivated homes and yards in which the working-class residents seem to spend fewer non-working hours than they’d like. The painting depicts a quiet, ordinary world in an ambiguous moment of the day. For that, I built a miniature set that resembles a simplified version of the real world that is more relatable for the viewer.”

The quiet and introspective moments of life are the focus of Morago’s paintings including *Ventana*. He says, “Starting from an everyday image, I build the work removing the superfluous, being reduced to different planes in which light takes center stage, creating a gradation that avoids contrast, inviting the viewer to a reflective moment...to silence.” ●

Arcadia Contemporary at LA Art Show

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