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Young Artist to watch – Alex Becerra

By Ben Austin



Woman with red crosses, 2015 Oil on canvas stretched over panel 72 x 64 in 182.9 x 162.6 cm

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In keeping with my ongoing interest in the brash and the contemporary faux naïf artists, the young artist to watch this week is LA based painter – Alex Becerra, who is creating quite a stir with a reputation as a provocateur, creating comparisons to both Philip Guston and Mike Kelley.

He has been labeled the ‘Outlaw’ by Modern Painters and you can see why, distorted bizarrely sexualized figures in contrast to thick impasto landscapes, sickly rich and saturated.

Becerra joins the ranks of LA artists who like Danny Fox, paint in such a simple yet expressive manner that there is no getting away from the raw energy and vitality of their work.

His brushwork is fast and loose, leaving areas bare and dirty, whilst in other parts clogged with thick paint almost directly from the tube. His Latin-American heritage may draw comparisons with Eddie Martinez, but where Martinez plays upon distorted comic figures, Becerra is reckless and provocative, creating thrillingly explicit work which is uncompromising and lacking in all restraint, making it visceral and edgy.

Becerra delights in the excess and grotesque, his fascination with the everyday, even his working process seen in installations of empty pizza boxes used as impromptu portfolio, marker pen works on paper, scattered across the floor, amongst which are featured a ‘free massage’ guide, all reflect his source material. This artist’s work is not for the faint hearted and there is no getting away from it, you can be sure that collectors are eyeing up his pieces with keen interest.

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Alexa Becerra Big Booty T-Girl In Studio City, 2016 Oil on linen 71 x 63 in 180.3 x 160 cm

Alex Becerra was born in 1989, Valencia, California and obtained his BFA, Otis College of Art, LA California. He has had solo shows at ltd los angeles, Los Angeles, CA – ‘Las Putas Problematicas’ and a forthcoming show at Shane Campbell, Chicago, IL.

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I Love Blondes, 2014 Oil on panel, mixed medium 72 x 61 in 182.9 x 154.9 cm

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