

PRESS RELEASE --- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cuban-born Artist Tatiana Garmendia Tells It Like It Is In Solo Show at Gage Academy's Steele Gallery



"I remember playing in abandoned missile trenches as a girl. In the eyes of a child they were castle walls. Turns out, though, not just the revolution but all the isms failed in fulfilling innocent dreams."
-Tatiana Garmendia, 2017

(Seattle, WA – August 29, 2017) The Gage Academy of Art will feature a multi-media exhibition highlighting the work of Cuban-born artist Tatiana Garmendia at their Steele Gallery, on view from September 13 through October 4, 2017. *everything passes everything stays* showcases paintings, drawings, photos, sculptures, and video exploring themes of political asylum, migration, memory and cultural mythologies. The opening reception will be held September 15th from 6-9pm.

“I’m not holding anything back,” says the artist, pointing to an empty chair, covered by an embroidered military blanket. “I stitched all these torture techniques the Castro government used on my father, who died at just 36. Tragically, they’re also the techniques the USA government uses on detainees at Guantanamo.” Other works in the show are less confrontational. There are several self-portraits, oil paintings and ink drawings on translucent polyester film. On one wall, a series of experimental videos project Garmendia’s meditation on immigration, and the personal consequences of losing and finding a home. All the works on view explore a theme of sacrifice, political punishment and suspension by weaving together personal narrative with larger historical events.

Born in Havana at the height of the cold war, the artist remembers the two years she and her family were confined to a camp for political dissidents. “A couple of years ago my brother found the tickets that brought us to the USA...they were paid by the International Rescue Committee.” That was in 1969. The IRC is still rescuing political refugees. Garmendia talks about being a refugee in a concurrent show, *No Hiding Place Down Here* at the Seattle Presents Gallery through October 14, 2017. The piece, a commission by the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, addresses Seattle’s complicated relationship with the homeless. The artist culled from her own loss of home and country to find an empathic link to the stories of the unsheltered projected onto the installation.

everything passes everything stays will take place at the Steele Gallery, Gage Academy, 1501 10th Ave East, Ste. 101, Seattle, WA 98102 from September 13 through October 4, 2017. An opening reception will be held September 15th from 6-9pm.

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