

The ~~Mistake~~ Room

Felipe Baeza: Through the Flesh to Elsewhere

César García-Alvarez, TMR Executive & Artistic Director

Felipe Baeza's first institutional solo show, *Through the Flesh to Elsewhere*, brings together over sixty works produced over the last decade. Collectively, they explore the ways racialized, queered, and otherly-abled bodies are shaped through the violent brokering of power.

Felipe Baeza's (b. 1987 Guanajuato, Mexico) practice is as much a confrontation with charged pasts—the ways we remember them and how they shape us—as it is a love letter to those whose sense of personhood is constantly litigated and defined by those in power.

Born in Mexico, raised in Chicago, and now living and working in New York, Baeza trained as a printmaker—exploring the material and formal possibilities of the medium but perhaps more importantly its complicity in the construction of Western thought and its resulting modes of representation. Mobilizing print production technologies that were instrumental in creating Othering mechanisms for the colonial project, Baeza began to make a series of etchings, silkscreens, and photogravures that challenged the ways these forms have been violently used to act upon subjects. This process led to Baeza's conceptualization of what he calls *fugitive bodies*—racialized, queered, and otherly-abled persons whose existence transgresses multiple limitations of identity. These figures, that emerge in his works—rendered in different states of visibility and often cloaked with ancestral symbols and images—are not resolved but rather always in a process of becoming. What they share in common is an unabashed beauty sited beyond aesthetics.

For Baeza, beauty is emancipatory—liberating these bodies from the circumstances they're prescribed to and allowing us to see them fully as they are and what they can be. This exhibition traces these *fugitive bodies* as imagined by Baeza over the last ten years through more than sixty works that will be presented together for the very first time.



Installation view: Felipe Baeza: Through the Flesh to Elsewhere, the Mistake Room, Los Angeles, CA, USA, 2020. Courtesy of the Mistake room. Photo credit Ian Byers-Gamber.