

VoyageMIA

Meet Pepe Mar



Today we'd like to introduce you to Pepe Mar.

Every artist has a unique story. Can you briefly walk us through yours?

I was born in Mexico in a border town with Texas- Reynosa/Macallen. Growing up in a place like that is very different than being from Mexico, DF because of the proximity of U.S.A. You always grow up with so much influence of America but also having your roots in Mexico. I went to undergrad at CCA in San Francisco / Oakland which was a great experience and where my core foundation as an artist was initiated. After college, I moved to South Beach in the early

2000s. Art Basel had its first edition in 2002, South Beach back then was still a queer mecca and living in those 17 blocks was exciting. When I first moved to Miami, I was a resident artist at the South Florida Art Center. I started to discover the origins of what would become my collage practice and creating my signature 3D style. Later I moved onto the mainland of Miami and started a journey thru galleries and alternative spaces to show my work. There were so many alternative opportunities for Miami artists. In 2005 I started to show my work with David Castillo Gallery which still represents my work and more recently this past December I showed my work at Art Basel Miami Beach.

Please tell us about your art.

In my collages, paintings, and sculptures there's an anthropomorphic avatar that I created called Paprika he manifest himself in almost all my work many times he multiplies, mutates and populates worlds that allude to queer spaces, identity, and personal obsession , I hope a young queer audience relates to what I do and engage in it in a lot of different ways sending a message of inclusion and positivity, also of awareness and social engagement .

What do you think about the conditions for artists today? Has life become easier or harder for artists in recent years? What can cities like ours do to encourage and help art and artists thrive?

It's always hard for artists to afford studio space especially in this city that is growing so fast I moved to little river a couple of years ago, and now it's changing so fast, but artists are always very resourceful to do their work.

How or where can people see your work? How can people support your work?

People can visit pepemarart.com or visit David Castillo Gallery in south Beach.