

# THRESHOLD III: ANCESTRAL MEMORY



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KEVIN DEMERY X ANDREW PEQUENO

Friday, June 6th-Aug 22nd, 2025

Leedy-Voulkos Art Center

2012 Baltimore Ave.

Kansas City, MO





Collection Elizabeth Oran Presents

## **Threshold III: Ancestral Memory**

Kevin Demery and Andrew Pequeño

June 6 - Aug 22, 2025

Main Gallery

### **Closing Reception & Artist Talk**

Saturday, August 23rd | 1:00pm

RSVP

Threshold brings together the work of Kevin Demery & Andrew Pequeño in an exhibition that explores the passage between memory and material, presence and absence, rupture and repair. Both artists engage with personal and collective histories shaped by displacement, incarceration, and generational trauma, constructing visual worlds where the remnants of the past linger—ghostlike, tender, and unresolved.

Andrew Pequeño's mixed media works, rooted in the Chicano carceral tradition of paños, use soft, unconventional materials to reframe inherited narratives through gestures of care and transformation. His dreamlike figures exist in liminal spaces, suspended between loss and longing.

Demery's sculptural and installation-based practice reactivates historical artifacts and symbols of Black American life, recontextualizing them within poetic and fragmented environments. Through acts of assemblage, he creates sites of both mourning and resistance.

Together, their work speaks to the weight of what we carry across generations—and the thresholds we cross to remember, reimagine, and heal.





Kevin Demery

***Watch Out For Children***

Traffic signs, sign post, concrete, and brackets

9ft x 3.5 ft

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.



Kevin Demery

***Ascension***

MDF, pinewood, eye hooks, aged bells, steel butterflies, aluminum, and acrylic.

3.5ft x 5ft.

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.





Kevin Demery

***No Middle Passage***

Construction lumber and acrylic.

8ft x 3ft x 32in

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.

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Kevin Demery

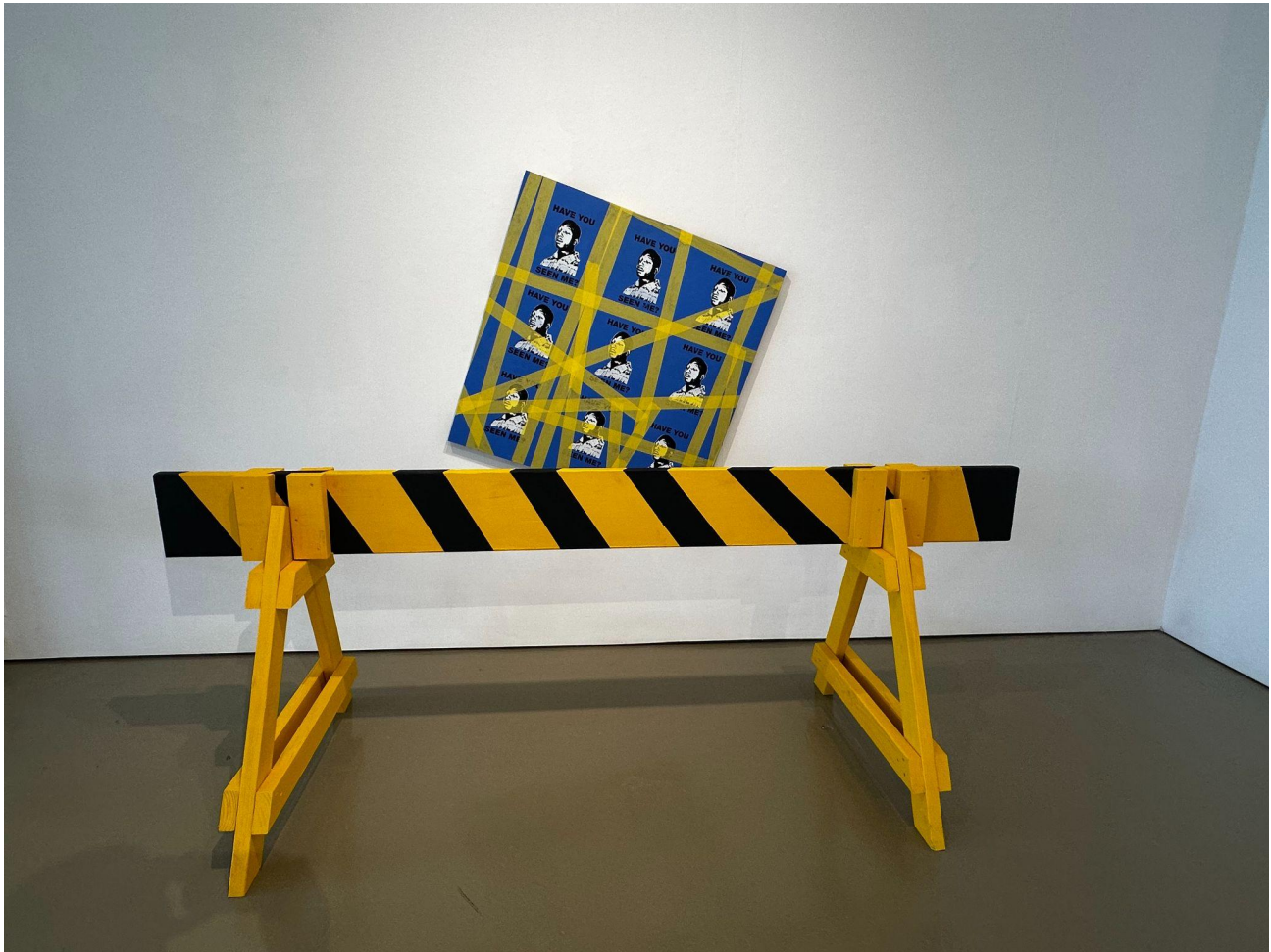
***Like Dust I'll Rise***

:MDF, acrylic, aluminum, pinewood, and sea shells.

2.5ft x 5ft.

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.





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Kevin Demery

***Untitled (Have You Seen Me?)***

Acrylic and silkscreen on wood panel and Construction  
lumber and acrylic.

Panel: 40 x 40 in. Barrier: 8ft x 3ft.

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.



Kevin Demery

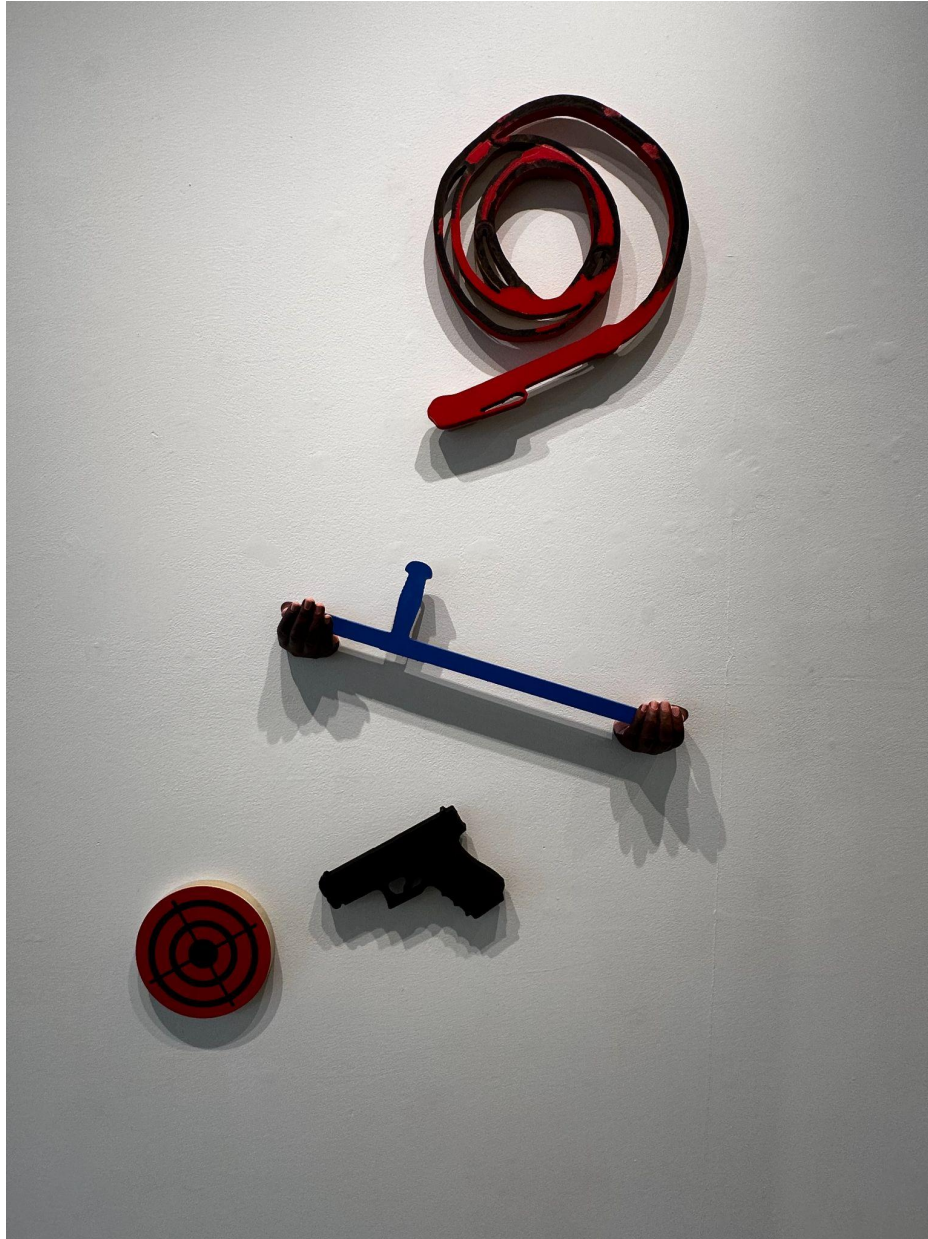
***Stained Glass (Installation)***

15 - 12 x 12 wooden panels, mdf, acrylic, acrylic silkscreen, and wooden blocks

48 x 48 in.

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.





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Kevin Demery

***Snap, Crackle, Pop! (II)***

MDF, Birchwood, Acrylic, and plaster casts

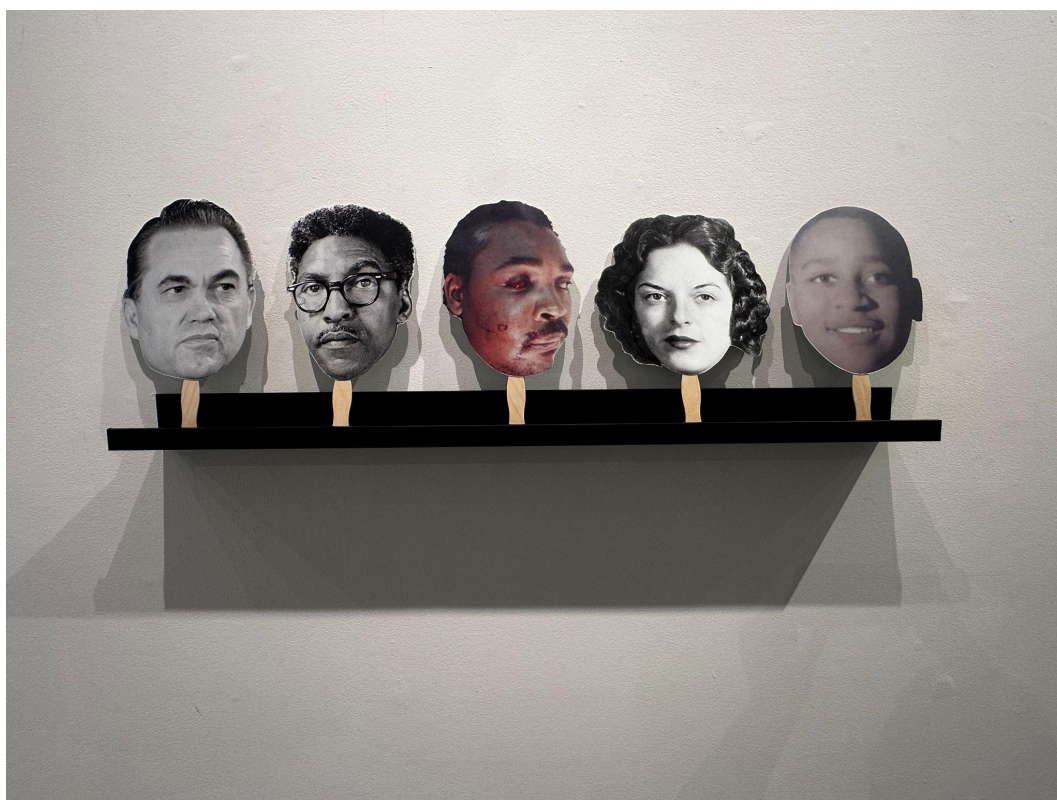
Dimensions Vary

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Kevin Demery

***Gone With The Wind (II)***

Polystyrene cut outs on wooden handles..

14 x 45in.

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.





Kevin Demery

***Despite All You Have Been Through You Still Thank God***

Medium: Acrylic Silkscreen , wooden blocks and assemblage  
on wood panel

36 x 36 in.

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.



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Kevin Demery

### ***Still Divine***

Acrylic, Acrylic Silkscreen, and wooden blocks on panel.  
48in x 48in.

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.



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Kevin Demery

***Untitled (Police Cars)***

Acrylic, Acrylic Silkscreen, on wooden panel.

48 in. x 48 in.

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.



Kevin Demery

***No Child Left Behind***

Acrylic, Chalkboard paint, construction lumber, and chalk.

38in x 10 ft

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.



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Kevin Demery

***Untitled (Self Portrait)***

Metal tin, birchwood, resin, sea glass, wooden blocks, and acrylic.

17 x 19 x 13 in.

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.



Kevin Demery

***Last Time I Saw You (Self Portrait)***

Acrylic and Acrylic Silkscreen on wooden panel.

5ft x 5ft

Panel: 8,500 | Red Police Barrier: 3,000

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.





Kevin Demery

***Untitled (Large Windchime)***

MDF, pinewood, eye hooks, bells, aluminum, and acrylic

3.5 ft x 5ft

10,000

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.



Kevin Demery

***Was Christ Not Crucified?***

Plaster Casts, Metal Nails, birchwood, cotton, glass, and wooden barrel

30 in x 13 in x 12 in.

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.





Kevin Demery

***Unto A Black Void***

Acrylic, Acrylic silkscreen, and wooden blocks on panel

48 x 60 in.

5,500

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.



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Kevin Demery

***Untitled (Installation)***

Wooden school chair, aged map, wooden blocks, and two  
anagram puzzles

2ft x 2ft x 2ft

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.



# Kevin Demery

## Artist Statement

I've always found poetry in objects that convey multiple histories, objects that, through context and placement, drastically change meaning. For this reason, I use a wide variety of media rooted in traditions of assemblage. My practice triangulates intimate examinations of childhood, racial subjugation, and autobiography. I employ a kitsch-like aesthetic that often veils the weight of the subject matter intentionally. I traverse a multitude of applications and presentations to draw the viewer into an environment with each piece. This is done as a means to evince the power of the materials and imagery used to evoke curiosity into the narratives that lie within them.

An example of how I employ these methods is work that exemplifies my process, *Gardens of Night*, 2020. In this work, I have a coffin-like cross box that I crafted by hand, outfitted with acrylic neon tubing. The box rests atop a worn, repurposed church pew. The neon illuminates the exterior, creating a rich black void that obscures a glass bottle holding a miniature military-grade American flag that is meant to sit beside gravesites. The impetus behind making this work was to create a miniature monument to the black body laid to rest in the name of American and Christian ideals that have not sought to serve or uplift a community inextricably tied to its histories. If read to scale, the coffin would only fit the body of a child.

Many of my works reference history independent from a particular narrative and speak as a form of poetry to larger cultural experiences. I make these objects to interrogate Black historical narratives, acting as a haunting specter to the sociopolitical backdrop in which I find myself. I'm drawn to the arrangement of symbols to illuminate further the nuances of the histories I awaken. In this, I find links between the objects I create and my experience growing up as an African-American youth amid atmospheres riddled with political inertia, poverty, and violence.

## Bio

Kevin Demery's work explores the interplay between U.S. history and signifiers of power, developing an artistic language that invites the viewer to move between the aesthetic of his work and recurring motifs of historical violence, surveillance, and childhood trauma. He uses sculpture as a vehicle to engage audiences with iconic elements such as children's puzzles, wind chimes, and plaster-cast hands to refer to specific histories and poetically interpret them within larger cultural experiences.

Demery received his BFA from the California College of the Arts in San Francisco, CA in 2014 and his MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in Chicago, IL in 2018. He is a full-time professor at the Kansas City Art Institute in Kansas City, MO. He is one of three recipients of the 2024 Charlotte Street Visual Artist Awards and his work is currently on view at the Nelson Atkins Museum in Kansas City as part of the award exhibition. He also participated in the Delta Triennial at the Arkansas Museum of Fine Art in Little Rock, AR and Art Cologne in Cologne, Germany with Sakhile & Me Gallery in 2024.



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Andrew Pequeno

***Quicksand, Jumpman***

sand, Nikes, and grass in church pew with tumbleweed  
various

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.



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Andrew Pequeno  
***Manifest Destiny***  
acrylic on canvas  
3'x10'

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Andrew Pequeno

***Splitting Earth***

leather, suede, and dickies wrapped around canvas  
2'x2'

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Andrew Pequeno

***River Runs Red with Mud***

leather, suede, and dickies wrapped around canvas  
2'x2'

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.



Andrew Pequeno

***Tough Times, Tough Minds***

leather, suede, and dickies wrapped around canvas  
2'x2'

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.





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Andrew Pequeno

***Songs they Dance to***

books and wooden sculpture on sand pillar

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.



Andrew Pequeno

***Where the Feathers Meet the Pavement***

wood, leather, deconstructed Nikes and gold chain attached  
to lowrider rim

16"x 24"

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.





Andrew Pequeno

***The Flood (wild turkey)***

brass flask, locust, and turkey feathers on rippled cathedral  
glass

3'x3'

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.



Andrew Pequeno

***Tall Grass, Long Roots***

wooden hand, brass hook, map, grass, brass wings, and  
coconut machete on leather

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.





Andrew Pequeno

***Angels and Arrows***

Medium: arrows, sand, and towing chain attached to duffle bag

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.



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Andrew Pequeno

***Coursing of Bulls***

bull horns, banana, and towing chain attached to duffle bag

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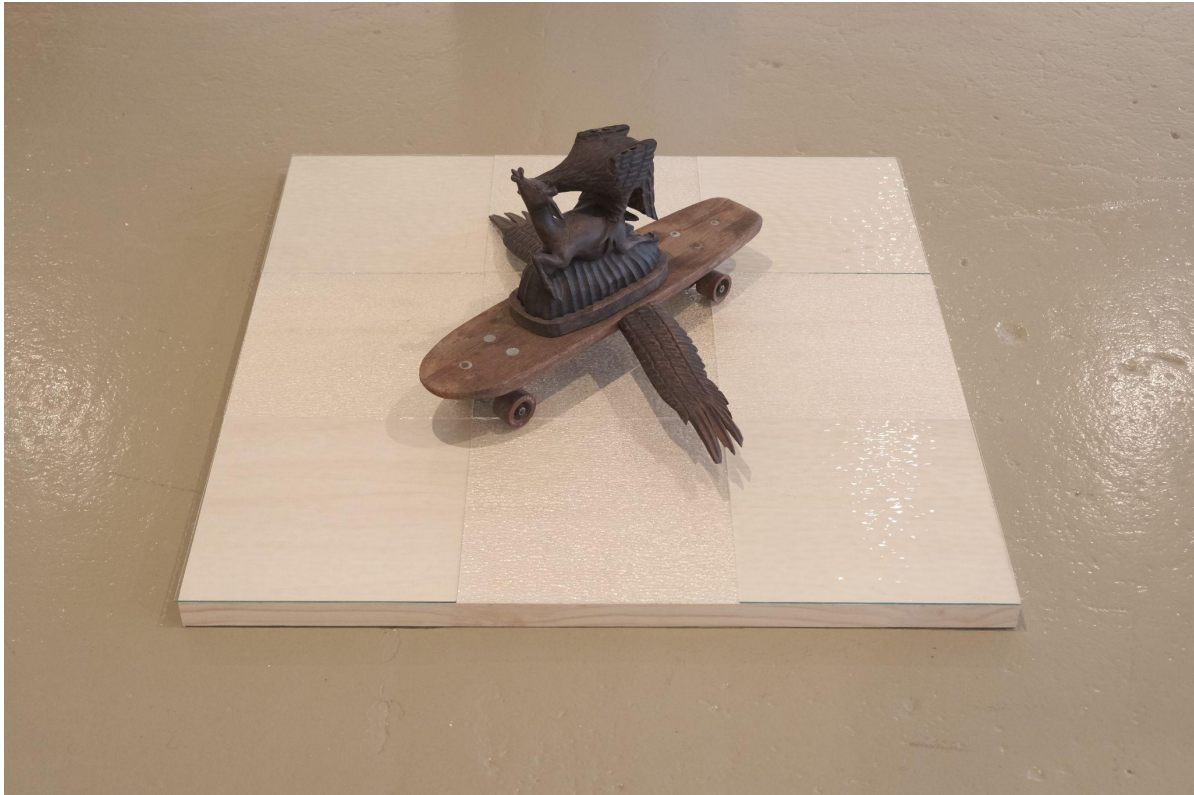
Andrew Pequeno

***Americans by Conquest (chapter one)***

wooden sculpture on cathedral glass

3'x3'x3'

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.



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Andrew Pequeno

***In Quest of a Homeland (chapter nine)***

50's skateboard, ceramic wheels, and wooden sculpture on  
rippled cathedral glass

3'x3'x2'

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.





Andrew Pequeno

***Worn in & Stretched Out***

deconstructed dickies, fur, collage, and antlers wrapped  
around canvas

4'x4'

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.



Andrew Pequeno

***Fire & Sand (part 1)***

terracotta relic mounted to sand with gold hardware

11"x14"

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.





Andrew Pequeno

***Broken Thunder***

terracotta relic mounted to sand with gold hardware

11"x14"

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.



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Andrew Pequeno

***Callate (quiet)***

terracotta relic mounted to sand with gold hardware

11"x14"

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.





Andrew Pequeno

***New Movement***

terracotta relic mounted to sand with gold hardware

11"x14"

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.



Andrew Pequeno

***With Passion***

terracotta relic mounted to sand with gold hardware

11"x14"

Contact us for any questions and purchasing inquiry.





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Andrew Pequeno

***Sand & Fire (part 2)***

terracotta relic mounted to sand with gold hardware

11" x 14"

# **Andrew Pequeño**

## **Artist Statement**

As a Mexican American interdisciplinary artist, my practice investigates the intersection of trauma, cultural identity, and regional specificity—particularly how these forces shape the social and psychic landscapes of the South and Southwest United States. My work is grounded in narrative, drawing from personal memory, inherited histories, and familial mythologies to create visual languages that are both intimate and expansive.

Through drawing, installation, and material experimentation, I construct images and objects that occupy a space between the sacred and the everyday. Infused with spiritual symbolism and folkloric references, these works engage the ongoing effects of settler colonialism—its disruption of culture, language, and belonging—and the generational reverberations it leaves behind.

I am interested in what happens at the edges of identity: at cultural and physical borders, where displacement and assimilation collide. My work asks how home is remembered or reimagined, and what it means to carry both loss and resilience across generations.

## **Bio**

Andrew Pequeño is a Mexican American interdisciplinary artist whose work investigates themes of displacement, cultural memory, and the shifting nature of identity. Born in San Antonio, Texas, and now based in Detroit, McIlvaine explores how home, language, culture, and even one's name can be fractured or redefined through migration, settler colonialism, and generational movement. His practice is rooted in the personal, drawing from familial narratives to examine the psychological terrain of loss, resilience, and belonging.

Pequeño earned his BA in Studio Art from the University of Missouri–Kansas City and later received his MFA in Painting and Drawing from Washington University in St. Louis. His work spans drawing, sculpture, and installation, often incorporating symbolic materials such as sand, Mexican iconography, and consumer objects like Nikes to navigate the layered complexities of personal and cultural transformation.