

MISSING RIB: Maria Rendón

February 27 – March 27, 2015



ATKINSON GALLERY

SANTA BARBARA CITY COLLEGE

Special Thanks

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Maria Rendón says that what *is not* there interests her just as much as what *is* there. In the new work featured in the *Missing Rib: Maria Rendón* exhibition, the artist operates at the margins of representation using a controlled improvisation of watery acrylic on paper. She carefully, although sometimes precariously, balances on the thin line between absence and presence with her contained flow of paint.



Untitled is part of a series of centrally composed and intimate paintings featuring luminescent ovals that simultaneously allude to egg and vagina. Vibrant and fleshy in color, though not at all concrete, the form is static while the medium moves. The action is not in the imagery, but in the paint itself. In this investigation of being and not being, Rendón literally circumscribes the source of life, but *nothing* is born of the anticipatory opening.

A set of free floating objects orbit around a murky black zygote in *Missing Rib*. Here, Rendón materially investigates (in)tangibility via opacity with layered paint that is pooled and parched. In particular, the thick white paint hints at calcium deposits and the mythical bone of the title. However, as often as not, the white is translucent and insubstantial revealing simultaneous, yet opposing, readings of origin and regression.



Working on a much larger scale in *Modern Humans Emerge*, Rendón roots her nebulous yellow figure in a toxic pink horizon line. In this piece, there is increased interplay between foreground and background, a liquid blurring of the line that causes both the form and its place to move in and out of focus. Concurrently solid and ethereal, the central body is made up of intersecting elements.



Composed of salvaged painted paper cut into large shapes and woven together to create a massive arc, *Accidental Virtue* sprawls across the far wall of the gallery. Unconstrained by the paper's ruled edge, the amoebic forms are visceral and urgently placed. Immersive in size, the piece includes the viewer in the crisscrossing evolutions of the artist herself, the repurposed paintings, and the primordial.



“ I make works inspired by the space between reality and perception, the present and the absent, the normal and the abnormal. ”

- Maria Rendón

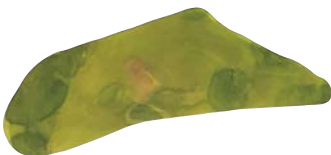




With *Dust to Dust*, the artist completes the cycle of the exhibition by coaxing her painting into the third dimension. Draped remnants of old pieces hang in concentric loops from a found branch. Once negative space, these surplus cuttings become the primary object. The tangled elliptical structure offers the possibility of actually entering the ovum referenced in other works.

Embracing the dichotomy of release and restraint in her painting, Rendón creates pseudo Rorschach tests that temptingly invite identification of the fleeting image. Like clouds and startling murmurations, the images and their interpretations are in constant flux. Viewers join the artist in asking: What *is* there? And, as importantly, what *is not* there?

—Sarah Cunningham, Atkinson Gallery Director
February 2015



Credits

- *Missing Rib*, 2014, acrylic on paper on panel, 12" x 9" (*Front Cover*)
- *Nuclear Winter*, 2015, acrylic on paper, 8" x 6" (*page 4*)
- *Untitled*, 2015, acrylic on panel, 10" x 8" (*page 5, top left*)
- *Untitled*, 2015, acrylic on panel, 10" x 8" (*page 5, bottom left*)
- *Untitled*, 2015, acrylic on panel, 10" x 8" (*page 5, bottom right*)
- *Accidental Virtue*, 2015, acrylic on paper, 6' x 22.5' (*page 6 – 7*)
- *Lemur Like*, 2014, acrylic on paper on panel, 12" x 9" (*page 8, top left*)
- *Modern Humans Emerge*, 2014, acrylic on paper, 72" x 55" (*page 8, top right*)
- *The Last Corpuscle*, 2014, acrylic on paper on panel, 12" x 9" (*page 8, bottom left*)
- *Primordial Waltz*, 2015, acrylic on paper on panel, 12" x 9" (*page 8, bottom right*)
- Detail of work in progress in the artist studio (*page 9*)
- *Bovine Malaise*, 2015, acrylic on paper, 75" x 52" (*page 10*)
- Portrait of the artist by Robert Giaimo (*page 11*)
- *Embrio*, 2014, acrylic on paper on panel, 12" x 9" (*Back Cover*)





Maria Rendón

Maria Rendón lives and works in Santa Barbara, CA. Her previous solo exhibitions include shows at the Universidad Anahuac in Mexico, and at Mount St. Mary's College and Random Gallery, both in Los Angeles. Her work was featured in Crave, an art, food and social experience, at the Contemporary Arts Forum (now the Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara) in 2012. She has also been in many group exhibitions at venues including the Westmont Ridley-Tree Museum of Art, Lotusland, Gallery Nucleus and Santa Monica College. In her work as an illustrator, Rendón has received awards from American Illustration, the Society of Illustrators and the Society of Publication Designers. Her work has been commissioned by many businesses including American Airlines, Capitol Records, Dow Jones, Harvard Business School and NPR. Rendón received her Masters of Fine Arts degree from the University of California Santa Barbara in 2014. She holds Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees from both the Universidad Anahuac and the Art Center College of Design.

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