



*Sin Titulo (Untitled) 2, 2015*  
Mixed media drawing on paper  
40 x 27 inches



## **Onloaded: Rigo Flores, #yamecanse** March 20 – April 12, 2015

For his first solo exhibition, Rigo (Rigoberto) Flores has produced nine new drawings which are at once beautiful, riveting, and disturbing. In a metaphoric commentary, Flores depicts young girls dressed in age-appropriate clothes with bags covering their heads and therefore their innocent faces. They are his response to the September, 2014 violent assassinations by drug cartel members of 43 students from a teachers' college near Iguala, Guerrero, Mexico followed by the horrific disposal of their bodies which included dismemberment, burning their bodies on a pyre and then pulverizing teeth and bones to prevent the remains from being identified, stuffing the remains into garbage bags which were then thrown into a river. There is believed to be government complicity in the assassinations and the subsequent lack of governmental/police action which has spurred demonstrations, and Rigo to take hold of his power as an artist in a call to action for greater awareness. Many are following the situation in Mexico on Twitter at #yamecanse which is the subtitle for Flores' exhibition.

Rigo intensely feels the sharp contrast between his own reality in Phoenix and the ongoing travesty of drug cartels and corrupt government in his home state of Guerrero. The drawings are life size for a child. In fact, he uses his niece as a model. Heads covered by bags is a new archetype for brutality by terrorists both in the Mexican cartels and in other locations in this volatile world. The idea of the martyrdom of innocents expressed by outstretched arms has strong foundations in Art History throughout the Common Era (CE/AD).

Rigo believes that drawing is a pure form of artistic expression because it cuts to the idea more quickly, especially in the black and white format he has used. In producing these drawings, Flores used charcoal, graphite, and *conte* crayon. Color adds another layer, a distraction from focusing on ideas. He tries not to erase from his drawings because he wants to reveal the drawing process, and in these drawings particularly, to keep the memory of what transpired in Guerrero clear in peoples' minds.

Rigo earned an Associates of Fine Arts degree from Phoenix College in 2013 and is a candidate for a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree (painting) from Arizona State University in December, 2015. His work has previously been shown in group exhibitions at Tempe Center for the Arts, Arizona Latino Arts & Cultural Center (ALAC), Phoenix College, and Arizona State University. He was born in the Mexican state of Guerrero and grew up in Phoenix.

Ted G. Decker  
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