



## Hector Fernando Garcia: We The People

*We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America. -Preamble to the United States of America Constitution, 1787*

In my research for writing this exhibition text, I continually came back to its title, We the People, which in turn, took me to an historic and significant document associated with these words. The Preamble of the United States of America Constitution was written to introduce the Constitution and to explain its purpose. While it was certainly a political document, it provides information about what comes after it without functioning as a form of persuasion.

Likewise with the eighteen works produced for this exhibition by Phoenix-based visual artist Hector Fernando Garcia evokes his visual voice to call attention to human-made constructs which threaten, crush,

deprive, and bind people from enjoying American values he holds dear. He cherishes the freedom he finds in giving an expressive voice to his ideas, observations, and beliefs while addressing viewers of his art with frankness and providing opportunities for viewers to respond.

Hector Fernando seeks to establish forums of conversation which seek out alternatives to what has been done to erode free expression, freedom to explore and establish individual identities, justice for all peoples, and human Welfare – good health, human rights, finding one’s purpose and living a full life, defense from enemies, tranquility. He continually strides to be a catalyst for positive change in these same areas through creative expression and mentoring others.

In this exhibition, Hector continues conversations by providing references to previous works in his more recent paintings. His works seem like theatrical reenactments of events, interaction with people he has known, yet with the frankness in which he addresses his viewers. They appear permeated by a transparent dream-like veil, not purposefully capturing the realistic forms of humans or Nature. Yet he provides enough visual information to recognize the forms and contexts.

Hector Fernando is constantly motivated to grow in his professional practice as a visual artist through learning about new tools, techniques, and materials. A seminal work in this exhibition in that regard is Oracle Sisters (2021). He introduces fabric designs, symbols as petroglyphs, and other materials into his painting. It is multi-faceted in conveying multiple ideas. An experimental work, Hector describes it as being “a triptych without being a triptych”. He has given equal weight to each of the figures and introduced the concept of mirror imaging so that the viewer has a sense of seeing him/herself in the area where the figures are shown and perhaps identifying with or imagining what their lives may be like. During the 3 years I have known Hector Fernando, I have observed his all-consuming passion for and stalwart support for strengthening an inclusive art community in Phoenix, a steadfast commitment to making art, and being an agent for positive change.

A binational, Hector Fernando has lived in Phoenix since 2008. He earned a bachelor’s degree in Health Science from Arizona State University. After working in the health science field for a time, he decided to pursue his passion for art and started painting through observation and instruction. His work has been included in various area exhibitions. Hector was recently

selected by international Rio de Janeiro, Brazil-based art critic, professor, and author Marisa Flórido as one of 12 Maricopa County artists to make a print for the phICA Trajectory Print Portfolio with master printer Brent Bond of Santo Press, Scottsdale.

-Ted G. Decker  
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