

**Luna Anaïs Gallery**  
**Lunaanais.com**

May 25, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Cultural Undertow***

**Works by Gloria Gem Sánchez and Tidawitney Lek**

**Curated by Narsiso Martinez**

**June 5 - July 24, 2021**

**Opening Reception June 5, 6-10 pm**

**Location: Tin Flats, 1989 Blake Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90039**

Luna Anaïs Gallery is pleased to present *Cultural Undertow* curated by artist Narsiso Martinez featuring works by Gloria Gem Sánchez and Tidawitney Lek. Rooted in his own practice that honors the contributions of farmworkers to American culture, Martinez in this curatorial debut offers us the richly intimate figurative paintings of Lek and the spiritually endowed mixed-media works of Sánchez. Both of the artists exhibited explore themes of femininity within their respective Cambodian and Xicana-Filipina heritage as the exhibition asks us to consider a human culture that is universal in its composition of infinite particulars.

**About the Artists**

**Gloria Gem Sánchez** is a Xicana-Filipina artist who works in painting, weaving, sculpture, and mixed media. Her use of everyday materials invokes the Xicanx concept of 'Rasquache,' which signifies a resourceful, working-class sensibility. Hair is a potent material for the artist, who describes its capacity to hold memories and trauma. Sánchez makes art as a form of resilience and therapy to process painful experiences. She recently created an interactive, mobile mural pop-up with WE RISE LA: MUJERES DE MAIZ and participated in the Museum of Latin American Art's (MOLAA's) first ever AAPI x Latinx art programming; she is an affiliate of Slanguage Studio founded by Mario Ybarra Jr. and Karla Diaz and will co-curate an exhibition for their 20 year anniversary in 2022 at Angels Gate Cultural Center, all in Los Angeles. Sánchez earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Drawing and Painting from California State University, Long Beach in 2014. She works, teaches, and resides in the harbor area of Los Angeles, CA.

**Tidawitney Lek** is a Los Angeles based painter born in Long Beach, California working primarily in figurative painting often depicting intimate, domestic scenes that appear whimsically familiar while embracing elements of the surreal on deeper inspection. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Drawing and Painting from California State University, Long Beach in 2017. During her time there she earned a number of scholarships (Linda A. Day Endowed Student Award; Fine Art Affiliate Scholarship; Johanna & Richard Baker Endowed Award) as well as two nominations for the Yale Norfolk program (2015; 2016). Her work has been exhibited at the Carolyn Campagna Kleefeld Contemporary Art Museum, Long Beach, CA; the Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA), Los Angeles; Durden and Ray, Los Angeles; and Sow & Tailor, Los Angeles. In 2019 she was selected to participate in PowWowLongBeach's 5th annual mural project collaborating with locals and artists to beautify the city.

## **About the Curator**

[Narsiso Martinez](#) (b. 1977, Oaxaca, Mexico) came to the United States when he was 20 years old. He attended Evans Community Adult School and completed high school in 2006 at the age of 29. He earned an Associate of Arts degree in 2009 from Los Angeles City College. In the fall of 2012 Narsiso earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts from California State University Long Beach. In the spring of 2018 he received a Master of Fine Arts degree in drawing and painting from California State University, Long Beach and was awarded the prestigious Dedalus Foundation MFA Fellowship in Painting and Sculpture. Martinez is represented by Charlie James Gallery in Los Angeles; his work has been exhibited both locally and internationally; he lives and works in Long Beach, CA.

## **About Luna Anaïs Gallery**

In a city rapidly attracting talented artists, **Luna Anaïs Gallery** gives a platform to womxn artists on the verge of wider recognition. The gallery started amidst the challenges of 2020 with the aim of making sure artists in our community continue to thrive as we explore new models for connecting the public and collectors to excellent contemporary art.

## **About Tin Flats**

**Tin Flats** is an artist-run space founded on a desire to foster artistic practice, collaboration, dialogue, exhibition, and community. Located in a former chromium-plating factory by the LA River in the Frogtown neighborhood of Los Angeles, the 10,000-square-foot building houses the studios of artists: Stephen Neidich, Andrea Marie Breiling, Andrew Berardini, Chandler McWilliams, Shagha Ariannia, Mak Kern (Objects for Others), Rebecca Bruno, and Redling Fine Art. Future programming at the space will include seminars, classes, and events centered around the arts and community. Tin Flats was founded in 2017 by Stephen Neidich.

## **CURATORIAL STATEMENT**

### **PRESS KIT**

## **Media Contact**

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**Tidawhitney Lek**

*Cutting Threads*, 2021

Oil and acrylic on canvas

48 x 36 in (122 x 91 cm)

© 2021 Tidawhitney Lek



**Gloria Gem Sánchez**

*Nocturne Before Dawn*, 2018

Yarn, fabric, hair, faux flora, found materials

50 x 40 in (127 x 102 cm)

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