

DEC THE WALLS EXHIBITION

FEATURING NYSCA DECENTRALIZATION GRANTEES

DIEGO GARCIA, *CREATIVE INDIVIDUAL GRANT 2019*

DEC PROJECT: "*CLARITY: A SOLO EXHIBITION*"

A solo exhibition at Patchogue's Muñeca Arthouse that consisted of 24 brand-new paintings by Diego Garcia and an extensive event calendar of live music. The paintings, half of which were sold, told a vivid story of a journey through complex emotional experiences. To create the exhibition, Garcia related to techniques found in previous solo shows and presented new ones that expanded his technical and artistic palette. An estimated 500+ community members experienced the show through its event calendar alongside the gallery's public hours. Garcia also provided an art workshop inspired by the exhibition in his hometown of Brentwood, NY.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Long Island-born-and-raised, self-taught painter Diego Garcia has had a passion for art since childhood. An admiration for graffiti culture and honors art classes at Brentwood High School catalyzed Garcia's talents. The artist also found inspiration in figures like Michael Jackson and Walt Disney. At age 17, Garcia started to take his craft seriously; he began commission work and participated in local group exhibitions.

Vivid use of color, childlike text, graffiti-style references, and imagery of children have become Garcia's recognizable motifs. Since 2015, the 27-year-old painter has had four successful solo gallery exhibitions alongside many group and solo highlighted artist showcases. His "Leaving, 2016" private art gala in Chelsea, NY, raised \$10,000 for The Covenant House NY, which provides services for homeless city youth.

Garcia's 2018 solo invitational exhibition, "Summit", was presented by the Huntington Arts Council at its Main Street Gallery. The month-long show featured a brand-new collection of 27 paintings that depicted personal emotions and stories in a uniquely universal way. More than half of the pieces sold.

Garcia has also been nominated for best painter by "Bethpage Best of Long Island" in 2019 and 2020. He was awarded the "Long Island Young Professionals Award" in 2019 by the Huntington Chamber of Commerce. In 2019, the artist was presented with two grants from the Huntington Arts Council (see "DEC Project").

"I am a vessel, and that I feel is a more accurate title for who I am and what I do," Garcia says. "I think my works are studies of emotional, cultural, and sociological intelligence. I translate feelings and turn them into paintings and exhibition experiences for people to enjoy. I can bring them to feel what I feel, ultimately bringing us all closer to understanding each other and the world around us."