



MANUEL LÓPEZ
THE ARMORY SHOW 2024

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THE ARMORY SHOW

Charlie James Gallery is excited to present new works by Los Angeles-based painter Manuel López at the 2024 edition of **The Armory Show**. López turns to landscape for this first presentation on the East Coast, tapping into this grand and romantic tradition to capture the quiet moments and forgotten corners of his native Los Angeles. These are the artist's largest paintings to date, yet they maintain a sense of immediacy that is honed over a series of preparatory drawings. Precise detail, an idiosyncratic hand, and a vibrant sense of play brings each composition to life. In these works, López also taps into various art historical touchpoints including romantic landscape painting and 20th century icons such as Edward Hopper and David Hockney.

THE ARMORY SHOW

LOCATION

Javits Center
Booth S18

DATES | HOURS

Thursday, September 5 - VIP Preview
Friday, September 6 | 11am–7pm
Saturday, September 7 | 11am–7pm
Sunday, September 8 | 11am–6pm

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Manuel López's (b.1983, East Los Angeles, CA) drawings and paintings are informed by his immediate surroundings. Each piece is a careful examination of elements found around his environment: books, records, boxes, houseplants, various elements from his home, his neighborhood, and studio. López relies on observation, memories, materiality, touch, and presence to evoke a feeling of familiarity in the compositions. Manuel López grew up in Boyle Heights and East Los Angeles. He attended East Los Angeles College, transferred to The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) where he earned his BFA in painting and drawing. He has been included in numerous group exhibitions in institutions, galleries, and museums nationwide including Ni de Aqui, Ni de Alla, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, Youngbloods; Quotidian, Los Angeles, CA, Gardens; Last Projects, in Los Angeles, CA; Now(n) person, place, or thing; Tiger Strikes Asteroid, in Chicago, IL, Dark Progressivism; The Built Environment, at the Museum of Art and History, in Lancaster, CA; Vincent Price Art Museum, Los Angeles, CA; Friends Do Not Fear, at New Image Art, in West Hollywood, CA; Dia de los Muertos Exhibit at Self-Help Graphics, Boyle Heights, CA; Surface Place at Abrazo Interno Gallery at The Clemente, New York, NY; Spill at the Betty Rymer Gallery, Chicago, IL SAIC Undergrad Exhibition, at Sullivan Galleries, Chicago, IL, Solo Exhibition- So Mundane and incomplete (Some drawings and paintings); at Eastern Projects, Los Angeles, CA. He lives and works in East Los Angeles and is represented by Charlie James Gallery.

Artist Instagram: @meaunl_lpoez

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Photo credit @rafa.la Rafa Cardenas



MANUEL LÓPEZ THE ARMORY SHOW

Manuel López
El Sereno landscape
The place of the flowers
Acrylic on canvas
97 x 79 inches
2024
\$35,000



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The centerpiece of this presentation is the large, bustling painting *El Sereno Landscape (The Place of the Flowers)*. The viewer is led into the composition by two towering, beautifully rendered cypress trees. These frame a vibrant working-class neighborhood, with the ever-present Los Angeles tire shop nestled beside colorful homes and apartments. Peering over the landscape is a small ranch house in the distant hills – a nod to the city's more agricultural past, but also to its ever-changing future: a U-Haul truck ferries in the city's newest resident, perhaps. Amid this cycle of constant renewal, López pays homage to the everyman – the *raza* – those who fix up old cars, care for old houses, and remember the old days. Yet, the composition contains no figures, as in early photographs of bustling street scenes whose figures moved too fast for the technology to capture – the image of the figure is lost, but their energy remains.



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Manuel López
Terreno con nopales
Acrylic on canvas
70 x 60 inches
2024
\$26,000



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The bristling energy of *El Sereno Landscape* carries over into the smaller painting *Terreno con Nopales*. The makeshift fencing in the foreground of the composition provides ample opportunities for López's signature shifting perspective: in his works, a crossed fencepost, sagging telephone wire, or lanky palm trunk often occasions a spatial hiccup, bending reality to its own internal logic, or perhaps to the eternal illogic of Los Angeles's sprawling expanse. López approaches these nopales as a connection to the culture of his ancestors, whose influence lives on through a combination of careful cultivation and stubborn resiliency, much like the cacti and dandelions that dot the landscape.

Terreno con Nopales takes its palette from David Hockney's famous Los Angeles composition *American Collectors (Fred and Marcia Weisman)* (1968), in the collection of the Art Institute of Chicago. Hockney and López capture two faces of Los Angeles, mapping the distance between the glitz of Hollywood and the humble routines of the city's more far-flung neighborhoods. Each of these urban landscapes captures stillness and beauty in forgotten places, finding value and resiliency in the overlooked corners of the city.



MANUEL LÓPEZ THE ARMORY SHOW

Manuel López
Nopales, fig tree, and cypress
Acrylic on canvas
48 x 50 inches
2024
\$20,000



MANUEL LÓPEZ
THE ARMORY SHOW



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Manuel López
Southwest roadtripping
Acrylic on canvas
49 x 35.5 inches
2024
\$18,000



MANUEL LÓPEZ

THE ARMORY SHOW

Southwest Road Tripping breaks this pattern, taking as its subject the vast expanse of the Mojave desert landscape as seen from the highway. The painting is a story told in four registers, each moving at a different speed: the road flies by at the front, while the nearby fence breaks up the fast-moving scrub. A second, slower register of desert landscape holds telephone poles and a small structure, and finally the far mountain landscape sedately traverses the view. The subtle surreality of the scene recalls the cartoon backdrop to the antics of Wile E. Coyote and his elusive roadrunner, the artist's first exposure to the desert. Much like that one, this landscape holds more than first meets the eye: López also breaks up the landscape vertically, offering a slightly different snapshot between each telephone pole. In this way he captures both movement in both space and time under a veneer of serenity.



MANUEL LÓPEZ
THE ARMORY SHOW

Manuel López
Somewhere Over East LA
Acrylic on canvas
24 x 18 inches
2024
\$9,000



MANUEL LÓPEZ
THE ARMORY SHOW

Manuel López
Parking Lot View
(South Central LA Sunday 5:55pm)
Acrylic on canvas
24 x 18 inches
2024
\$9,000



MANUEL LÓPEZ
THE ARMORY SHOW

Manuel López
Hundreds of Channels, Nothing to Watch
(What Happened to our Storytellers?)
Acrylic on canvas
24 x 18 inches
2024
\$9,000



MANUEL LÓPEZ
THE ARMORY SHOW

Manuel López
Clearing brush on a hill side
Pencil on Bristol board
24 x 18 inches
2024
Framed
\$5,000



MANUEL LÓPEZ
THE ARMORY SHOW

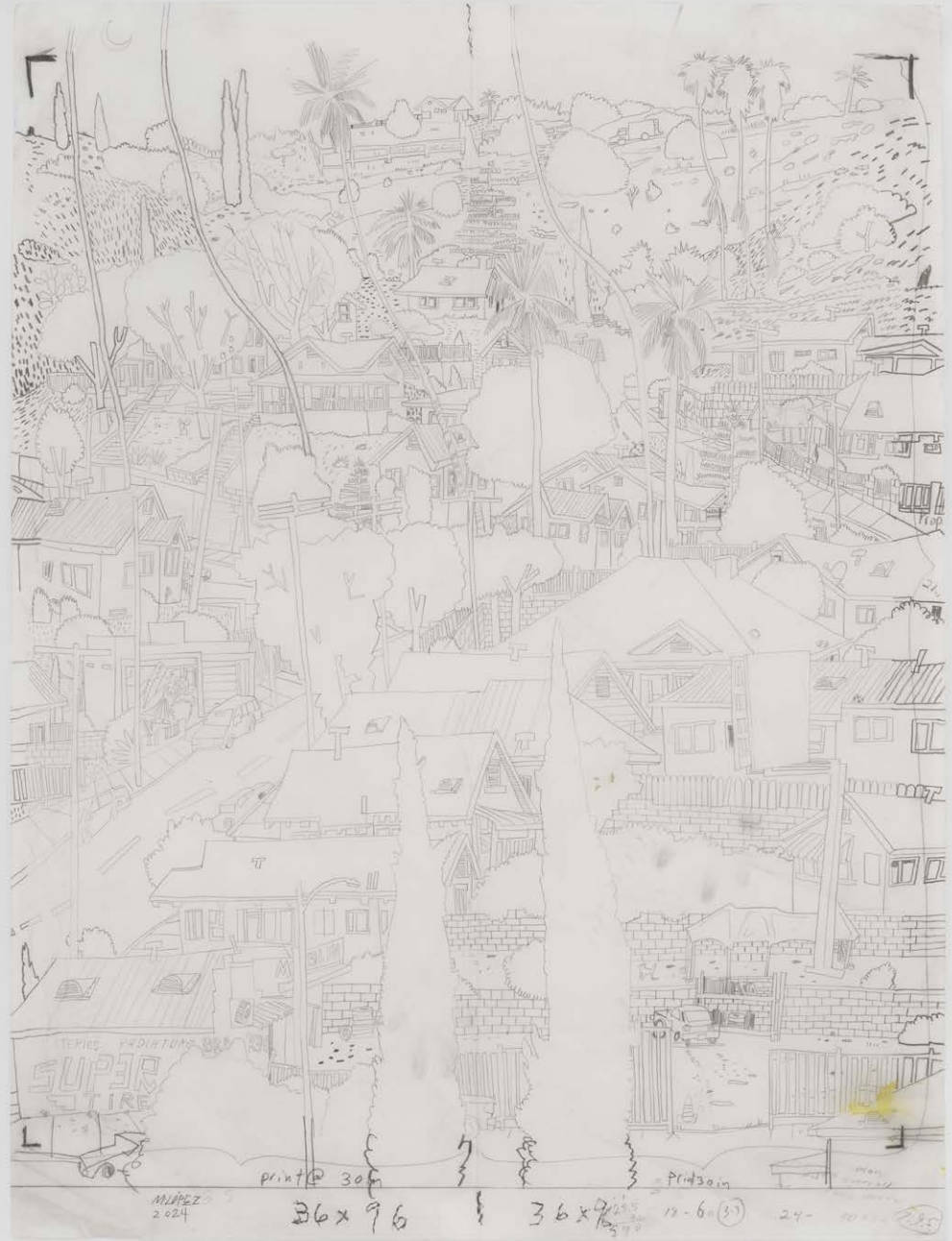
Manuel López
*View of El Pino from
the Evergreen Cemetery*
Pencil on paper
24 x 18 inches
2024
Framed
\$5,000



MANUEL LÓPEZ

THE ARMORY SHOW

Manuel López
El Sereno Landscape study
Pencil on tracing paper
24 x 18 inches
2024
Framed
\$5,000



MANUEL LÓPEZ
THE ARMORY SHOW

Manuel López
Terreno con nopales study
Pencil on tracing paper
24 x 18 inches
2024
Framed
\$5,000



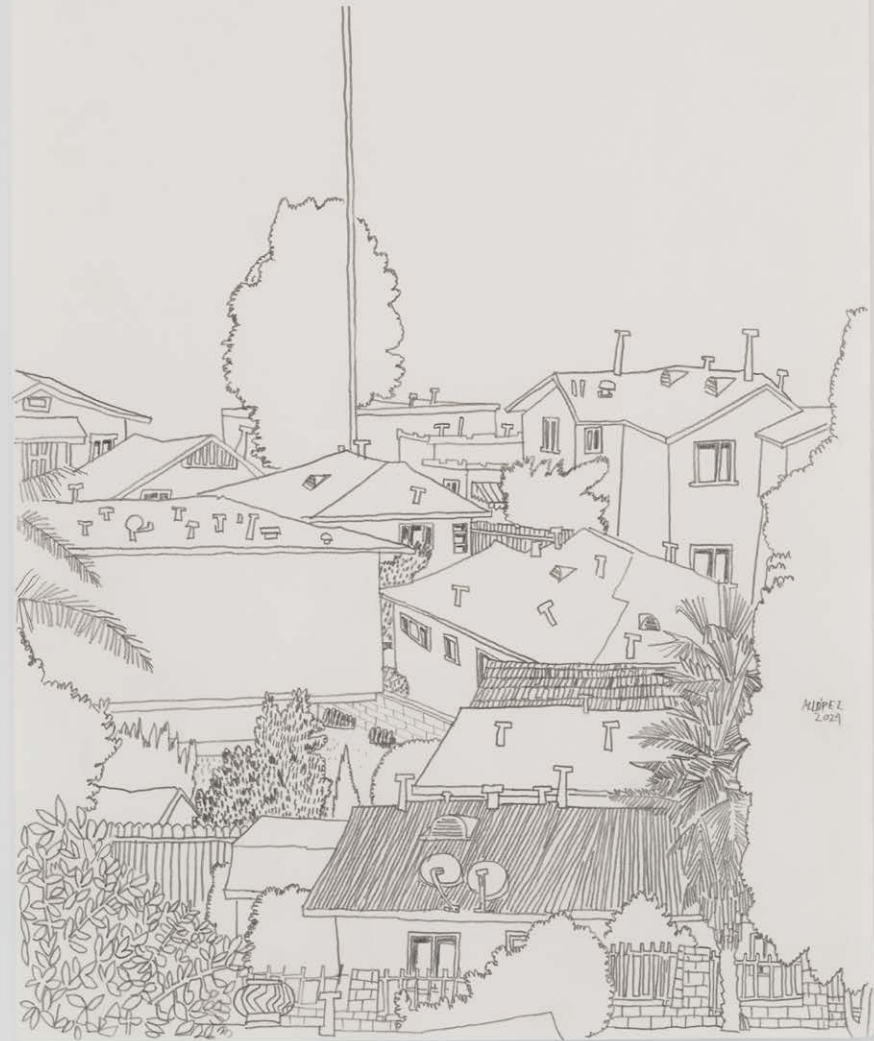
MANUEL LÓPEZ
THE ARMORY SHOW

Manuel López
House on First and Indiana
Pencil on paper
14 x 17 inches
2015
Framed
\$3,000



MANUEL LÓPEZ
THE ARMORY SHOW

Manuel López
Overlooking El Sereno
Pencil on paper
12 x 9 inches
2024
Framed
\$2,000



MANUEL LÓPEZ

CV

Manuel Lopez (b. 1983, East Los Angeles, CA)
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Fine Arts, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 The Armory Show, New York, NY
- 2023 Stepping Into The Light, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2022 Still Life Goes On, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018 So Mundane and Incomplete, Eastern Projects Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA
- 2023 New Landscapes Part I, Atkinson Gallery at Santa Barbara City College
A Rose Has No Teeth, Mollie White Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
The Angels, Baik Gallery, Seoul, South Korea
Black and Blue Fantasy, Dream Child, Los Angeles, CA
Material Art Fair, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2022 Rostro, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2021 Ni de aqui, ni de alla, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2020 In color, Quotidian LA, Los Angeles, CA
- 2020 CuatroXcuatro, Espacio 1839, Boyle Heights, CA
- 2019 Youngbloods, Quotidian, Los Angeles, CA
- 2019 Sur Biennial, Rio Hondo College Gallery, Los Angeles CA
- 2019 Quiet Please, Avenue 50 Studio, Highland Park, CA
- 2019 Gardens, Last Projects, Los Angeles, CA

- 2019 Now(n) person, place, or thing, Tiger Strikes Asteroid, Chicago, IL
- 2018 Dark Progressivism, Museum of Art and History, Lancaster, CA
- 2017 Day of the Dead Curated Exhibition , Self Help Graphics, Boyle Heights, CA
- 2017 Friends, do not fear, New Image Art, West Hollywood, CA
- 2016 Saints, Sinners, & Los Angeles, Avenue 50 Studio, Highland Park, CA
- 2015 Surface Place, Abrazo Interno Gallery at The Clemente, New York, NY
- 2011 Student Juried Exhibition, VPAM, Los Angeles, CA
- 2010 SPILL, Betty Rymer Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2010 SAIC Undergrad Exhibition, Daniel Sullivan Gallerie, Chicago, IL

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Manuel Lopez, Manuel Lopez wants you to see the Tongva Land on which this handball court sits. Los Angeles Times Image Magazine, May 26, 2021
- Arlene Davila, Latinx Art Artist, Market, and Politics, Duke University, 2020
- Esmeralda Bermudez, In hills of East L.A., artist finds his muse, Los Angeles Times, April 14, 2018

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- 2019 Youngbloods artist panel talk at Quotidian, Los Angeles, CA
- 2019 Sur Biennial panel talk at Ace Hotel, Los Angeles, CA

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- 2019 Professional Practices, Panel discussion at Cal State Dominguez Hills, Dominguez Hills, CA
- 2018 Talks at Google: Latinx Art & Culture, Panel discussion at Google Headquarters, Venice, CA
- 2018 Artist Talk with Getty Multicultural Interns, Eastern Projects Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018 En Conversacion, Panel Discussion at Eastern Projects Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA
Xiao Museum of Contemporary Art