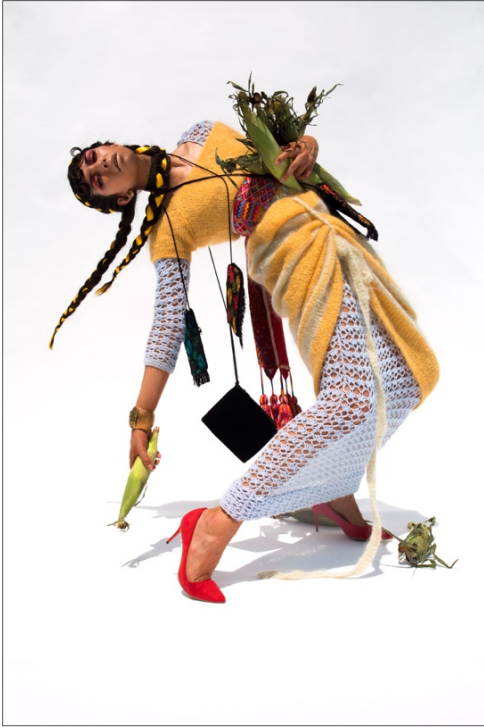


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49 GEARY STREET SAN FRANCISCO 94108 415 981 2661

For immediate release:



MARTINE GUTIERREZ HALF-BREED

November 18, 2021 – January 29, 2022

49 Geary Street, San Francisco

Fraenkel Gallery is pleased to announce a new exhibition *Martine Gutierrez: Half Breed*. Acting as both subject and producer, Gutierrez explores the multiplicity and complexity of identity in a series of pop-influenced narrative scenes. The exhibition, which takes its name from Cher's 1973 album, will include selections from three recent photographic series, *Body En Thrall*, *Plastics*, and *Indigenous Woman*, the 124-page magazine for which Gutierrez acted as muse, model, photographer, and art director, creating every element from fashion spreads and ads to an editor's letter. A Berkeley native now based in Brooklyn, Gutierrez joins Fraenkel Gallery's roster this fall. (Ryan Lee Gallery will continue to represent the artist in New York.) This will be her inaugural show with Fraenkel Gallery.

Indigenous Woman presents images in the glossy, seductive style of fashion and advertising photography, reimagining the tropes of those genres with wit and nuance. In the project, which was shown at the 2019 Venice Biennale, Gutierrez carves out a place for herself, trying on fluid identities that touch on race, class, gender, and sexuality. As she has noted, "No one was going to put me on the cover of a Paris fashion magazine, so I thought, I'm gonna make my own." The exhibition includes selections from *Neo-Indeo*, a fashion editorial in which Gutierrez wears Indigenous textiles,

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some of which belonged to her Mayan grandparents, paired with vintage and designer items in a personal, multicultural version of high fashion. In a 1960s-inspired ad, *Identity Boots*, Gutierrez poses nude except for shiny white go-go boots and brightly colored gender symbols and glyphs, crudely taped to her skin. In a series of portraits titled *Demons*, Gutierrez transforms herself into mythical women from ancient and indigenous cultures, adorned with sculptural hairstyles and extravagant jewelry. Together, the pages of *Indigenous Woman* present what Gutierrez has called a celebration of “ever-evolving self-image.”

In the series *Body En Thrall*, begun as an editorial for *Indigenous Woman*, the artist stages photographs using herself as a model, posing with mannequins in charged scenarios. In the selection on view, Gutierrez appears in the guise of a blonde persona she has referred to as “the bombshell,” and pictures provocative scenes that navigate questions about power, desire, and self-objectification.

In *Plastics*, Gutierrez pulls plastic wrap tightly over her face while wearing messy blonde wigs and contact lenses, holding her breath as she embodies a series of archetypes. The transparent film pushes her features and smears her makeup, creating portraits that speak to the violence and artifice inherent in mainstream ideals of beauty.

Martine Gutierrez (b. 1989) was commissioned by the Public Art Fund to produce *ANTI-ICON*, a series of photographs installed on bus shelters throughout New York, Chicago, and Boston, on view until November 21, 2021. In 2023, her work will be included in *Musical Thinking: New Video Artists in the Smithsonian American Art Museum Collection* in Washington, D.C. Her work has been featured in solo museum exhibitions at the Australian Centre for Photography, Darlinghurst, New South Wales; Blaffer Art Museum, University of Houston, Houston, TX; Contemporary Art Museum, Raleigh, NC; Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Fort Worth, TX; Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, IL; and the Rockwell Museum, Corning, NY, among others. Her work is included in the collections of the Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University, Stanford, CA; Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY; Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI; Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Fort Worth, TX; Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College, Chicago, IL; Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, San Diego, CA; Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC; and Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY, among others.

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Image: Martine Gutierrez, *Neo-Indeo, Cakchi Lana Caliente*, p29 from *Indigenous Woman*, 2018

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