

CARLOS ROLÓN / DZINE: NOW AND THEN
FEB 13 – MAY 31, 2015



Exhibition Teacher Guide



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INTRODUCTION

Internationally acclaimed artist Carlos Rolón/Dzine creates elaborately crafted paintings, ornate sculptures and works based on the diaspora and custom culture that discuss personal and collective identity. The work explores issues surrounding inclusion, beauty, craft-making and longing. Rolón painstakingly illuminates how the masculine can become delicate and baroque, minimal.

This exhibition is a follow up to Rolón's site-specific *Ghost Stories* sculpture at RAM; along with his Ghost Bike Project public art installation the sculpture proved to be a profoundly moving, stirring conversation work that affected the Midwest region and beyond. *Now and Then* is Rolón's first solo museum exhibition in the Midwest.

Organized by Rockford Art Museum and curated by RAM Curator Carrie Johnson, this exhibition and its related educational programming are sponsored by the Joyce G. Ramer Trust and in part by the Saavedra Family Trust, and partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency. All education programs are sponsored in part by Women's Art Board of Rockford Art Museum.

Cover (Installation):

Carlos Rolón/Dzine (American, b. 1970)

Sun, 2008

Courtesy of the artist and Salon 94, New York

RAM

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EXHIBITION VOCABULARY

ASYMMETRY. Lack of equality or equivalence between parts or aspects of something; lack of symmetry.

BAROQUE. Relating to or denoting a style of European architecture, music, and art of the 17th and 18th centuries that followed mannerism and is characterized by ornate detail. In architecture the period is exemplified by the palace of Versailles and by the work of Bernini in Italy. Major composers include Vivaldi, Bach, and Handel; Caravaggio and Rubens are important baroque artists.

JUXTAPOSITION. Two things being seen or placed close together with contrasting effect.

CUSTOM CULTURE (or KUSTOM KULTURE). An American phrase used to describe artworks, vehicles, hairstyles and fashions of those who drove and built custom cars and motorcycles in the U.S. from the 1950s through today.

RESIN. A sticky flammable organic substance, insoluble in water, exuded by some trees and other plants (notably fir and pine).

SYMBOL. Something that stands for or suggests something else by reason of relationship, associate, convention, or accidental resemblance.

SYMMETRY. The quality of being made up of exactly similar parts facing each other or around an axis.

VENETIAN. Of or relating to Venice or its people.

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CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY #1 DESIGN YOUR OWN CUSTOM

Dzine's custom cars and bikes draw inspiration from the artist's cultural background. Have students view his work and research their own background and then design their own custom car or bike based on their own cultural background and or interests.

Materials

watercolor paper
watercolor paint
paintbrushes
water
cups
paper towels

Instructions

Have students examine Dzine's work and have them think of connections they have to vehicles or modes of transportation. The idea of custom culture (or kustom culture) and TV shows like "Pimp My Ride" are also acceptable inspirations.

Have students describe the qualities of the pieces and or builds and the differences they see between vehicles they have seen or have in their own lives. Have them use the visual elements (i.e., color, line, movement, etc.) to support their answers.

Have students select qualities in Dzine's work they would like to translate into their own designs. Have them use pencils for a rough sketch before creating a watercolor painting on paper. Using their interests or background as their inspiration, have students create their own version of a custom car or bike, including items that we might use today (i.e., sports equipment, technology, clothing, etc.). Students should create their piece using watercolor paints and paper. For high school students, computers and Photoshop could be used instead, if available.

ISBE Standards: 25.B.2, 25.B.3, 25.B



Carlos Rolón/Dzine (American, b. 1970)
Boriqua Sound System, 2013
Courtesy of the artist and Salon 94, New York

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ACTIVITY #2 MIRRORS REFLECTION

Carlos Rolón/Dzine has created many pieces out of mirrors, resin and/or mirrored materials. His mirrored pieces reflect what is in front of them and have a root in parts of his life. Whether it be the wallpaper in his childhood home or the ornate fences of Puerto Rico the pieces are heavily influenced by patterns.

Materials

canvas or canvas board
acrylic or tempera paint
paintbrushes
water
cups
pencils



Carlos Rolón/Dzine (American, b. 1970)
Untitled, 2014

Collection of Rockford Art Museum
Image courtesy of the artist, photo Nathan Keay

Instructions

Have students look at Dzine's mirrored works including but not limited to the one listed above (more available at his website, carlosrolondzine.com). Have students compare them to designs and patterns they have seen before. Discuss how symmetry and asymmetry play into both Dzine's work and patterns that are readily accessible in everyday environments.

Using either canvas or paper, have students create a pattern using an every day object or an object from the surrounding community. Have the students then embellish the pattern and make it stand out from the background.

After completed, have students display the embellished pattern alongside the original inspiration for the piece either via photograph or sketch.

ISBE Standards: 27.B.2, 27.B.3, 27.B.5, 26.B.1d, 26.B.2d

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WEBSITES

Rockford Art Museum
www.rockfordartmuseum.org

Carlos Rolón/Dzine
www.carlosrolondzine.com

Dick Blick Art Materials
www.dickblick.com

Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE Standards)
www.isbe.state.il.us

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