

Director's Press Statement

Kathy Gallegos, Avenue 50 Studio, Los Angeles, CA

Linda Vallejo: *Make 'Em All Mexican*

May 14—June 5, 2011

This year the Avenue 50 Studio is focusing attention on questions of Democracy in our exhibition programming. As a universal value, democracy means different things to different cultures, and varies from country to country. In the US, democracy means rule of the people, for the people and by the people. Is that true?

As we look at Linda Vallejo's' *Make them all Mexican* it is clear which culture populates her images, but does this culture have the power to rule? On the surface many of these images are amusing and outright funny, but upon further reflection, this work is troubling. By making everyone Mexican, what does that say about exclusion? Are we all one people? If so, does that mean we're all one color? If not, who is being excluded?

We encourage you to join us in this dialog because, after all, democracy is about freedom of speech.

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On the surface these images are outright funny - but upon reflection they raise many questions. What do they say about exclusion? Who is being excluded? Are we all one people? We encourage you to join us in this dialog because, after all, democracy is about freedom of speech. Linda Vallejo's series *Make them all Mexican* takes a leap into the conceptual. Departing from her vibrant *Electric Landscapes* into a muted palate of browns and ochers, Linda tastefully explores questions of race. This is an exhibition not to be missed.

In her newest work, *Make 'Em All Mexican*, Vallejo takes a leap into the conceptual where she explores questions of race. On the surface these images are outright funny - but upon reflection they raise many questions. What do they say about exclusion? Who is being excluded? Are we all one people? We encourage you to join us in this dialog because, after all, democracy is about freedom of speech.