

**SEE  
SOMETHING**

**SAY  
SOMETHING**

**DAVID HUFFMAN ▪ EVRI KWONG ▪ LINDA VALLEJO**

**FEBRUARY 10 - APRIL 20, 2019**

**MUSEUM of SONOMA COUNTY**

**SEE**  
**SOMETHING**

**SAY**  
**SOMETHING**

February 10 - April 20, 2019  
Curated by Jeff Nathanson

The warning, "See Something, Say Something," on posters and in announcements at bus depots, train stations, and airports, encourages citizens to stay alert and speak up if they notice something amiss. While the phrase originated to convey the threat posed by terrorism after the 9/11 attacks, in this exhibition the meaning is expanded to encourage individuals to call out additional threats to society such as racism, sexism, economic disparity, and climate change. The three artists in this exhibition are saying something from diverse cultural perspectives. They are observant and vocal, providing a community service by identifying important issues that affect us all.

This exhibition is generously supported by Eric and Debbie Green, County of Sonoma Board of Supervisors, Resolution Capital, and Sports Basement of Santa Rosa.

Special thanks to May Makki and Lizzetta LeFalle-Collins for their assistance on this exhibition.

DAVID HUFFMAN

EVRI KWONG

LINDA VALLEJO

# DAVID HUFFMAN

David Huffman is a painter and installation artist with a studio in Oakland, CA. He is known for works that combine science fiction aesthetics with a critical focus on the political exploration of identity. He describes his work as informed by a combination of modern African Diaspora, the aesthetics of science fiction, urban vernacular, and the idioms of abstraction. Often, his work interrogates the politics of race through the subtle yet potent iconography drawn from basketball. He uses the basketball, a readymade ingrained with its own vocabulary, as both an abstraction and spectrum to gauge the mutability of the present against the volatile presence of history.



*I Can't Breathe*  
2015

Acrylic, oil, spray paint, glitter,  
color pencil, printing ink, on wood panel  
60 x 60 inches  
Courtesy of Wayee Chu and Ethan Beard



*Liberation Pyramid*

650 Rubber Basketballs (29.9" each), wood frame  
10-minute sound loop

Special thanks to Sports Basement for their support of this project

"The pyramid represents one of the highest achievements of human culture. It also speaks to western culture's inability to believe that people of African descent were capable of building such monuments. My pyramids are constructed from basketballs. The basketball is also a shifting symbol, one that can point to an arena of objectification and exploitation, or toward African American dreams and aspirations that have been realized. The pyramid and the basketball may seem an unlikely combination but both are rooted in blackness and black ideology. During the trauma of slavery, Africans were forcefully displaced from their

homes rupturing all connections to African life and identity. Intersecting the basketball with the pyramid challenges the historical manipulations against black invention and re-establishes a lost connection."

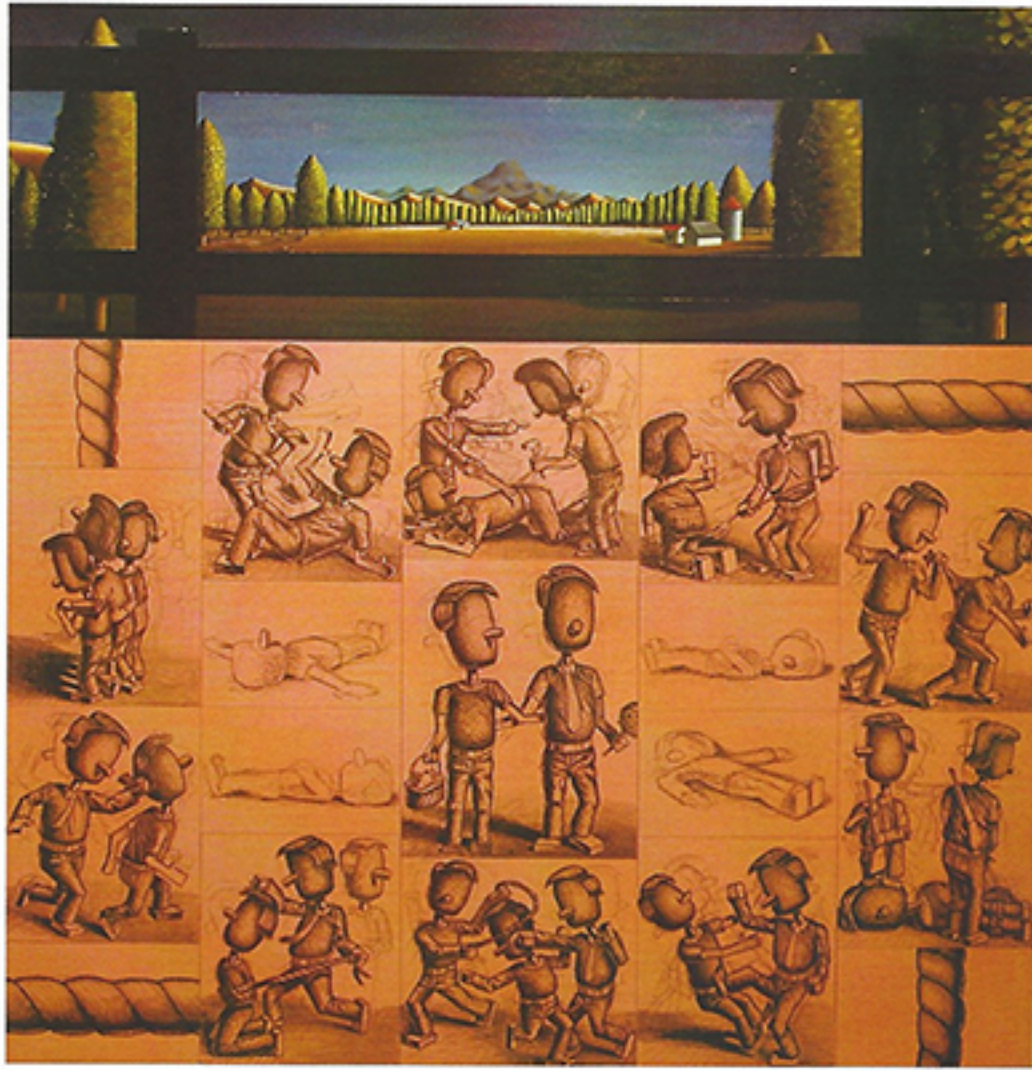
"*Liberation*, my fourth pyramid project, uses the colors of the Pan African Flag: red, black and green. This is the first design for unification and human rights of Africans globally. For *Liberation* I also created a sound component, a 10 minute loop of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 'I Have a Dream' speech interwoven with sound files of Jupiter's largest moon, Ganymede. The eerie NASA file interrupts King's speech, forcing a discontinuous time experience of past and future." - David Huffman

These installations are social sculptures and at the end of the show the pyramid will be dismantled and the basketballs are to be donated to local youth recreation programs of the Boys and Girls Clubs and Catholic Charities.

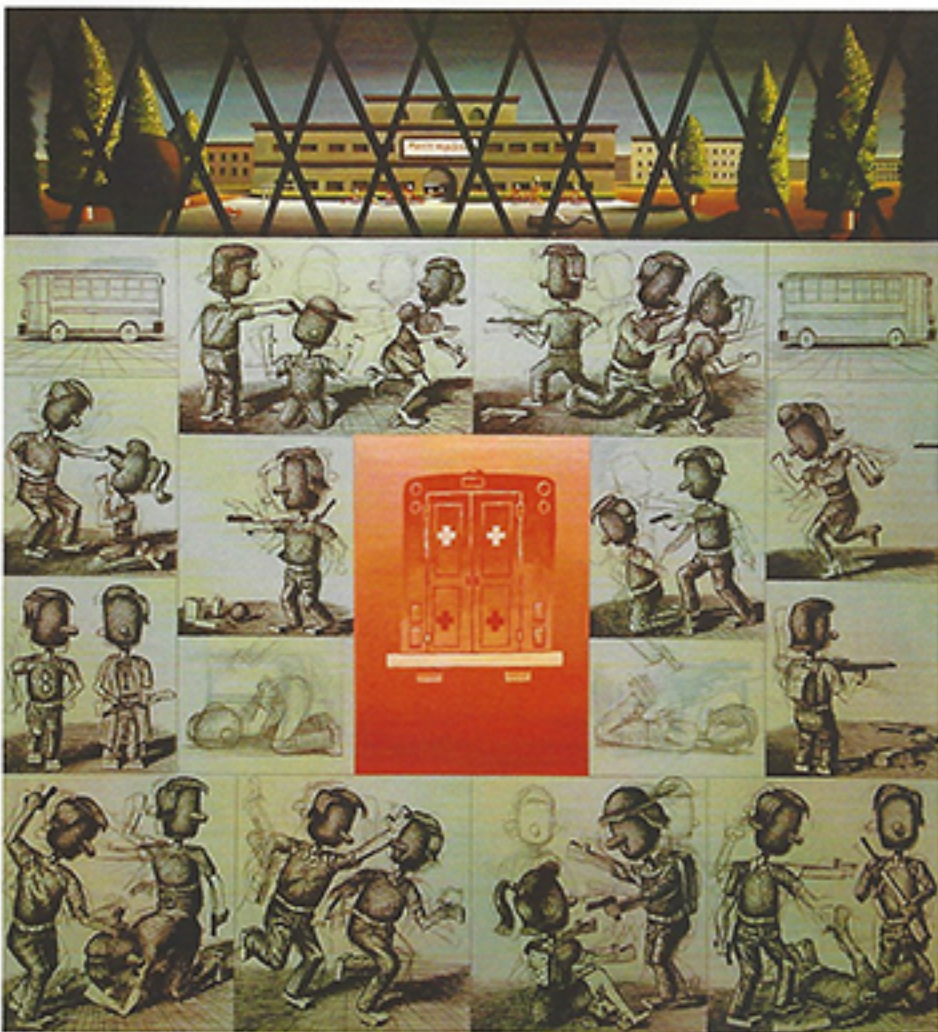
David Huffman received his M.F.A. from California College of Arts and Crafts (CCAC) and is now a faculty member at the California College of the Arts (formerly CCAC). He is the recipient of several awards including the Barclay Simpson Award, the ARTADIA Foundation Award and a Fleishhacker Foundation Eureka Fellowship. His work is represented in numerous private and museum collections including the Berkeley Art Museum and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

# EVRI KWONG

Evri Kwong, a Bay Area artist who lives in Santa Rosa, turns national issues such as consumerism, racism, and religious intolerance, into bold narrative paintings. His grid-like compositions combine blocks of Sharpie sketches with blocks of bright, cartoonish paintings, juxtaposing our idealized vision of America and the darker reality beneath.



*Pinky Goes to Town*  
2001  
Oil and sharpie on canvas  
72 x 72 inches



*Any Town, Anytime*  
2001  
Oil and sharpie on canvas  
60 x 66 inches



*Land of Oil and Honey*  
2018-2019  
Mixed media  
72 x 84 inches

During the course of the exhibition the artist will periodically add to this wall installation based on current events

**"I am not a political artist. I am just an artist responding to the times we are living in."**

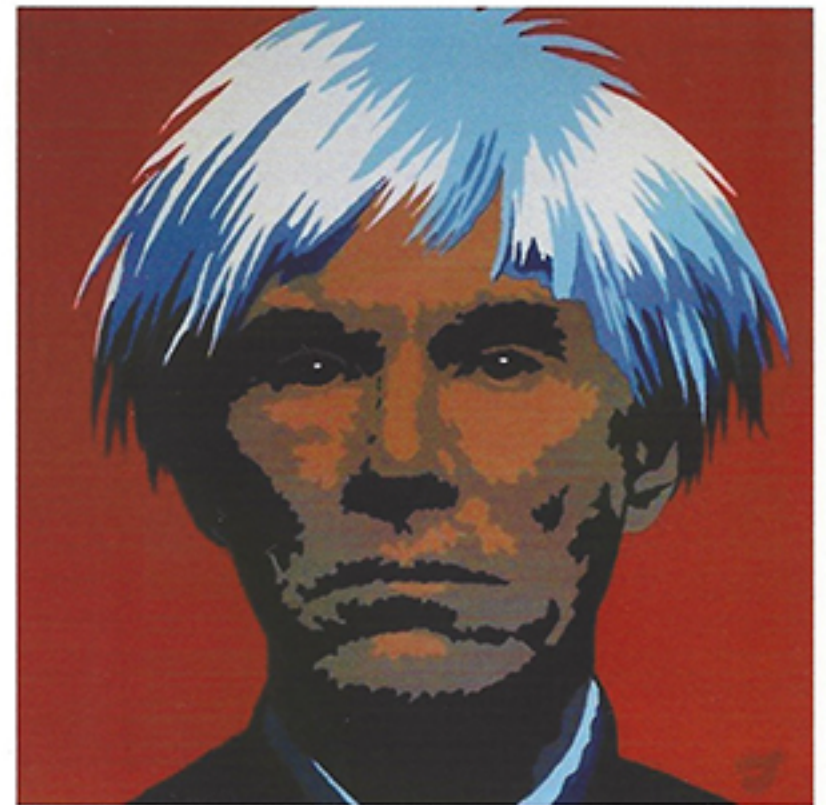
**-Evri Kwong**

Evri Kwong received both his B.F.A and M.F.A from the San Francisco Art Institute and received a fellowship to study at Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine. A recipient of the Pollock-Krasner Grant, Kwong's work has been featured in solo exhibitions across the country, including the Robert Berman Gallery in Santa Monica, Dwight Hackett Projects in Santa Fe, the deSaisset Museum at Santa Clara University, San Jose Museum of Art, Alternative Museum in New York, Heidi Cho Gallery in New York, Gallery Godo in South Korea, Gerald Peters Gallery in San Francisco and New Mexico, and the Catharine Clark Gallery in San Francisco. Kwong currently teaches at Napa Valley College.

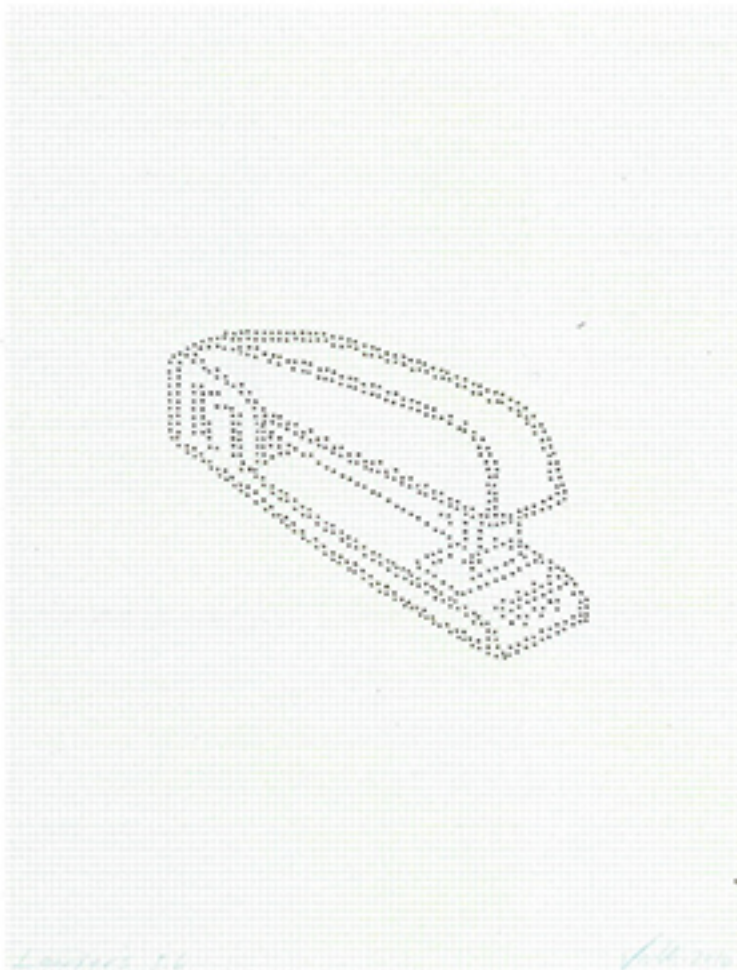
# LINDA VALLEJO

Linda Vallejo, an artist who lives and works in Los Angeles, is known for painting and sculpture that discusses the politics of color and class. Her work often addresses her Mexican-American identity within the context of American art and popular culture. She has been involved in traditional Native American and ChicanX rituals and ceremonies for many years.

Linda Vallejo's *Make 'Em All Mexican (MEAM)* series confronts the viewer with one of the most important questions of our time, "How does race, color, and class define our status in the world?" In this series she repurposes pricey antiques and literally paints them brown. *MEAM* images include a "brown" Marilyn Monroe (Marielena) Andy Warhol (El Andy), the Munsters (The Mexters), John Beluschi (Juan El Abeja), Mona Lisa, the Queen Mother, politicians, the Greek gods, and other figures and icons from popular culture and history.



*El Andy*  
2014  
Acrylic, aluminum sublimation print  
20 x 20 inches



*The Brown Dot Project*  
*National Latino Lawyers 5.6%*  
2016  
Archival marker, pigment print, water color paper,  
Prismacolor pencil, and repurposed photograph  
11 x 8.5 inches

In 2015-2016 Linda Vallejo continued "keepin' it brown" with a series entitled *The Brown Dot Project (TBDP)* where she translates national Latino population and workforce data into geometric forms and pop images on architectural vellum and pigment-printed grid paper using brown dots. Images recall Native American and Mesoamerican blankets and weavings, as well as grid-oriented modernists Mondrian, Chuck Close, Agnes Martin, and Charles Gaines.

She describes *The Brown Dot Project* as an elegant solution to a series of complex questions about simple facts, that is, data about Latino life in the United States. She writes, "The process is exhaustive, and often exhausting, taking several hours to design and complete. I find myself studying a variety of sets of data, including topics such as the number of Latinos in any given city or state, the national number of Latino executives, the number of Latinos involved in the American Civil war. The amount and kinds of data are inexhaustible. I am literally counting one Latino at a time, brown dot by brown dot!"

Linda Vallejo received her MFA from California State University, Long Beach, and has traveled and studied internationally. Her work was included in multiple 2018 exhibitions organized as part of the Getty Foundation-sponsored "Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA" including "Imagen Angeleno," Museum of Art and History 2017, Lancaster, CA, "A Universal History of Infamy: Those of This America," LACMA Charles White Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, "Deconstructing Liberty: A Destiny Manifested," initiated by Building Bridges Art Exchange and exhibited at Muzeo Museum & Cultural Center, Anaheim, CA, and "Keepin' It Brown," bG Gallery, Santa Monica, CA.