

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



ReflectSpace Gallery to Focus on the Legacy of Native American Genocide with *Erasure*



Eric Garcia Lopez, photo by William Wilson

Dates: Feb 15 – April 14, 2019

Address: 222 E. Harvard Street
Glendale, CA 91205

Opening Reception: Fri Feb 15 • 7-9pm

Program - Thu, March 7, 7pm:
Film and panel discussion

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[#nativeartists](#) [#art](#)

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(Feb 6, 2019) GLENDALE, CA - The legacy of the genocide of native populations by the U.S. government and early settlers “remains hidden in plain sight” according to UCLA Professor and Author Benjamin Madley. Madley is the first historian to uncover the full extent of the involvement of state and federal officials, and the taxpayer dollars that supported the indigenous genocide.

Erasure—Native American Genocide: A Legacy at ReflectSpace Gallery brings some of that history into focus. Through the work of Native artists, the exhibit presents work sourced from personal histories and internal/external explorations of Native American identity. The artists aim to bring erasure to light through brazen political imagery, subtle constructions and work that upends ubiquitous Indian stereotypes. They take diverse and bold approaches to reclaiming and redefining their history using their own narratives.

About the Artists

ReflectSpace artists in *Erasure*: Gerald Clarke, Mercedes Dorame, River Garza, Pamela J. Peters, and William Wilson.

Gerald Clarke is a member of the Cahuilla Band of Indians. He lives on the Cahuilla Indian reservation and his artwork reflects a deep connection to his community and land. In his work one can see an incessant and unsettled search for meaning: employing every and all media, including found objects and so-called “trash” Clarke forces the viewer to re-consider preconceived notions about American Indians.

Mercedes Dorame is likewise deeply connected to her native roots. She uses photography as a way to explore, re-imagine, and connect to her Gabrielino-Tongva tribal culture and bring visibility to contemporary indigenous experience. Much like the fluid and instinctual practices of her indigenous ancestors, Dorame merges and melds multiple artistic media and native materials to create unique installations.

River Garza is a self-taught mixed media artist telling a contemporary narrative of Native people. Raised in Gardena, his work is deeply affected by Los Angeles as an urban space and his tribal Tongva/Gabrielino community. These influences pull Garza's work in opposite directions but also turn inward and enable him to strike a delicate balance: between dirt and concrete, past and future, peace and violence.

Pamela Peters is an L.A.-based Navajo multi-media photographer and filmmaker who upends well-worn Indian stereotypes. In her series titled "Real Ndnz Retake Hollywood," Native people pose as actors and actresses evocative of the glamorous 1940s era Hollywood. Her work also addresses the "exile" of a whole generation of Indians from the reservation: an insidious and hidden history which is a real and continuing legacy of genocide of her Navajo nation.

William Wilson is a Navajo artist based in Santa Fe who confronts the way American culture is enamored with Native representations from 1907 to 1930 by photographer Edward S. Curtis. His work supplants Curtis' "Settler" gaze with a contemporary vision of Native North America. Using a large format (8x10) wet plate collodion studio photography process, Wilson employs Curtis' methodology but subverts the gaze to create unique and contemporary portraits of Native Americans.

PassageWay artists are Votan Henriquez, Randy Kemp, Douglas Miles, Felicia Montes, Kimberly Robertson, Marianne Sadowski. The PassageWay gallery will display a number of serigraphs on loan from our institutional partner, Self Help Graphics and Art in Los Angeles. These works enhance and expand the scope and depth of *Erasure*.

About ReflectSpace

ReflectSpace is an inclusive exhibition gallery designed to explore and reflect on major human atrocities, genocides and civil rights violations. Immersive in conception, ReflectSpace is a hybrid space that is both experiential and informative, employing art, technology and interactive media to reflect on the past and present of Glendale's communal fabric and interrogate current-day global human rights issues.

About Library, Arts & Culture

Glendale's Library, Arts & Culture Department began in 1907 and includes six neighborhood libraries as well as the Brand Library & Art Center, housed in the historic 1904 mansion of Glendale pioneer Leslie C. Brand, and the Downtown Central Library, a 93,000 square foot center for studying, learning and gathering. For more information call Library, Arts & Culture at 818-548-2030 or see the website www.GlendaleLAC.org.

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DETAILS

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Erasure is co-curated by Pamela J. Peters and Ara & Anahid Oshagan

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