

Gods, Monsters and Hidden Histories: Paintings by Michael Ezzell and Victor Rosario

Exhibition on View: October 13, 2020 - January 19, 2021

Exhibition Statement:

Our stories about who we are and where we come from are as old as our species – but how old is our species? Whether you believe we sprang fully formed from an all-knowing deity, crawled century-by-century from the primordial ooze to two feet, or that we are the fruit of seeds planted by extra-terrestrial travelers, you are not alone in being fascinated by human origins and destiny. We never cease to be amazed with ourselves, never content with accepted science or storytelling that might help us understand where we come from or where we are going. Painters Michael Ezzell and Victor Rosario explore the contours of human myth-making by looking backwards and forwards. Each work is a portal to another world, framed by ancient symbols derived from Greco-Roman sources, archaeological digs and eye-witness accounts. These seductive tableau explore the outer reaches of ancient as well as future time and space, inviting audiences to confront what and how they think they know about what it means to be human. Are our gods monsters? Are we their children? How many of our histories remain hidden?

Michael Ezzell Artist Statement:

I am heavily influenced by the esoteric symbolism and mysticism of Greek and Roman mythology. Through figurative narrative, I tell familiar stories as well as those that have yet to be told. In my work, the world we inhabit is not the only world in existence, and time is a construct of human perception. I strive to eschew time and reality as I create a world of my own, influenced but not identical to the world I already inhabit. I use repetition and pattern to convey a sense of kept time, as only can be done in the realm we live.

Translating the dimensionality of a 3D vase into a flattened plane keeps its motifs from evolving in a circular time and space, forcing them to keep to a linear one. When a three dimensional object is turned, the narrative is repeated endlessly, but when it is flattened, that narrative is forced to accommodate a beginning and an end. Time is the story in front of you laid out in a frame, measured by the passing of imagery and repetition of pattern. Reality is the skewed nature of that imagery: what you see is not what is real, but what is what I want you to see as real. Our minds are portals to other worlds and my work seeks to bridge them.

Michael Ezzell Bio:

Michael Ezzell uses a range of media to create his illustrations. In the stories he tells with his printmaking and painting he explores esoteric symbolism and mysticism, weaving characters and icons reminiscent of Greek and Roman myths into new narratives and worlds. Ezzell's work presents a window through time and reality; an escape into realms of fantasy and wonder. In addition to his fine arts practice, Ezzell is the founder of Paper Shuttle, a line of well-imagined goods, that includes pins, patches, hand-printed bandanas and totes. Each piece is rich with symbolism and evokes its own mythology. Ezzell works and lives in Providence, RI. He holds a degree in Illustration from the Savannah College of Art & Design. <https://mezzell.com/>

Victor Rosario Artist Statement:

Art chose me as an avatar to inspire and motivate. I am art and when I'm in my space creating I am truly being, truly serving my purpose in this incarnation. Staying open and receptive while building off of my extensive research is key to the development of my work, as my subjects are from times long forgotten but still within us and all around us.

I base my art on archaeological artifacts, megaliths, ancient mythic stories and recorded anomalies that point to the existence of life as we don't know it. I depict times when the gods walked the Earth, and when men were wiser and intertwined closely with nature. When I say gods, I mean celestial beings with advanced technologies whose works may have seemed like magic to our ancestors. Humans from all around the world spoke about the gods, telling stories about how they were creators, destroyers, protectors, or giants. Ancient myths tell of how these beings flew around on fiery chariots; how they were reptilian, or fish-like, or avian, or humanoid. Some appeared to be no different from the humans over which they wielded so much power. I feel my abilities as an artist have been gifted to me for this purpose; for this moment. I bring my art to the world not to present facts, but to share pieces to the puzzle that have been neglected and ignored. Maybe someday in the near future, we can together put the pieces together and figure these stories fit into the creation of our world.

Victor Rosario Bio:

Providence sculptor and painter Victor Rosario is self-taught, and has been making art his whole life. Born and raised in the Creative Capital, for years he never really knew what to do with his artistic abilities; a bit of a loner in his youth and adolescence, he would question his reality and how he fit into it. A drawing pad and pencil became his best friends and a means of escape. He would sketch out things that would pop into his head, like strange creatures from other worlds. In his adult life, Rosario found his purpose, and harnessed the application of his talents with the support of various guides and teachers. The worlds he makes now are not so different from those he made as a kid, and yet, they are more than just fantasies. Rosario depicts ancient histories, artifacts, megaliths, and religions. His images weave together clues that connect viewers to our mysterious human origins, surprising them with truths that are stranger than fiction.
<https://victor-rosario.pixels.com/>

To purchase works in the show,
please contact the artists directly:

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401-696-4989

Michael Ezzell
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Victor Rosario - Living Beings

36"x50"

acrylic on canvas

\$2,500

"Great ocean Giants approach, coil goes to the fabric. Many ancient deities are depicted holding some type of bag as if they're ready to harvest something."



Victor Rosario - Blue Honey Moon

36"x50"

acrylic on canvas

\$2,500

"The taino moon goddess sunbathes on the cratered surface of her hive."



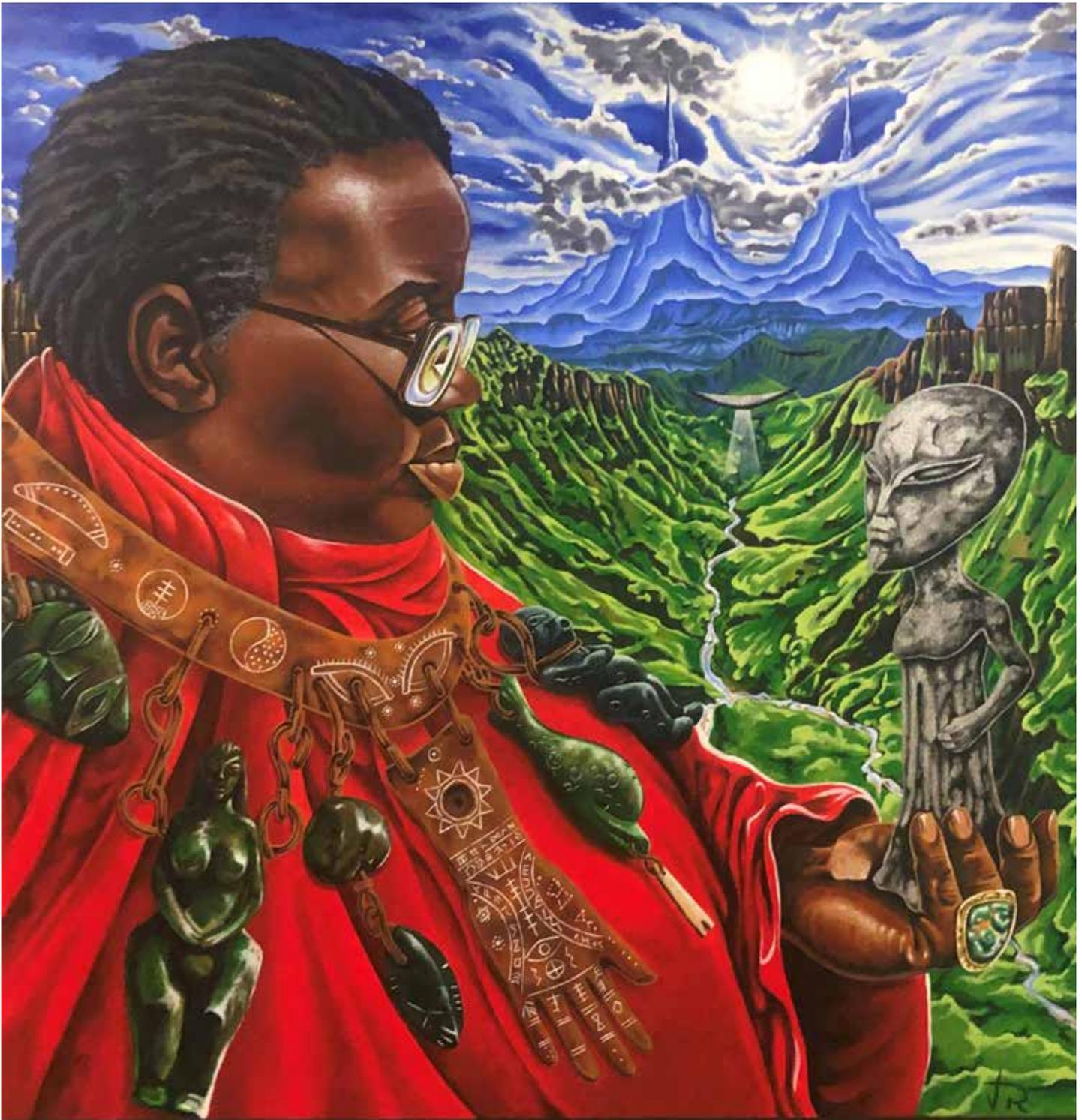
Victor Rosario - Solar Gata

50"x36"

acrylic on canvas

\$2,500

"Visitors from distant Stars use the sun as a portal, framed by the Aztec calendar, inspired by an ojuelos stone found in Ojuelos Mexico."



Victor Rosario - Credo Mutwa's lost knowledge

60"x60"

acrylic on canvas

\$3,500

"He was known as an author of books that draw upon African mythology, traditional Zulu folklore, extraterrestrial encounters and his own personal encounters. Credo Mutwa and his necklace of a thousand mysteries gazes at the figure of a Calube, the bringer of rain who has control of the weather. Very similar to the Wandjina of Australian Aboriginal stories. In the background hover boomerang shaped UFO's over the Drakensberg mountains of South Africa where reptilian humanoid beings are said to live under, hence the name (Drakensberg) or Dragon mountain."



Victor Rosario - Father Crespi's Aurum

60"x60"

acrylic on canvas

\$3,500

"Father Crespi was a salesian monk who lived in Ecuador and received out of place artifacts from the indigenous natives that were supposedly found in the Tayos caves. Even astronaut Neil Armstrong took interest in 1976, and embarked on an expedition with Stanley Hall and a larger group of men including Ecuadorian military to look for a supposed pre-deluvian metal library. All they found was Clay artifacts, Crespi's museum caught fire and a lot was lost. After his death in 1982 all the gold artifacts disappeared."



Michael Ezzell - Sun Dance

3'x4'

Acrylic on shaped wood panel

\$1,500



Michael Ezzell - Nigh Bringer

3'x4'

Acrylic on shaped wood panel

\$1,500



Michael Ezzell - Serpent No.1

Acrylic on shaped wood panel

\$700



Michael Ezzell - Janus Serpentum

Acrylic on shaped wood panel

\$500



Michael Ezzell - Serpent No.2
Acrylic on shaped wood panel
\$700



Michael Ezzell - Janus Chronos
Acrylic on shaped wood panel
\$500



Michael Ezzell - Pestilence & Panacea

3'x4'

Acrylic on shaped wood panel

\$1,500



Michael Ezzell - Passage

3'x4'

Acrylic on shaped wood panel

\$1,500



Michael Ezzell - Descent

3'x4'

Acrylic on shaped wood panel

\$1,500