



Justin Favela (b. 1986, Las Vegas) is an interdisciplinary artist whose innovative use of hand-crafted processes has shaped new conversations in contemporary art, blending humor with keen observations of popular culture and art history to interrogate Latinx identity, cultural appropriation, and the layered histories of his Mexican and Guatemalan heritage. At the core of his art practice is his investigation of traditional Mexican and Latin American craft—specifically *cartonería* (more commonly known as piñata-making).

Justin has become recognized for his wall sculptures and large-scale installations that combine an obsession with pop culture with a side-eye towards art history—imagine a life-size piñata-style lowrider sculpture, or an entire gallery covered floor-to-ceiling with a fringed tissue paper installation remixing José María Velasco’s landscape paintings. You’re pulled in by the spectacle of color and movement, and you leave thinking, “I didn’t see this like that before.”

This conversation about art and culture with the broader public is important to Justin’s practice. His groundbreaking podcast, *Latinos Who Lunch*, (on which he is known as “Favy Fav”) is a collaboration with art historian, curator, and friend, Emmanuel Ortega (aka “Babelito”). Over its five-year run, *Latinos Who Lunch* has expanded the dialogue at the intersection of art and Latinx representation and identity for audiences across America.

Justin’s work has been the subject of dozens of institutional exhibitions since 2007. In 2025, he presented solo exhibitions at the New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, CT and the Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita, KS. His rooms-sized installation and sculptures are currently on exhibition at Ballroom Marfa and his monumental site-specific commission, *Capilla de Maíz (Maize Chapel)*, is the subject of a one-person exhibition at the Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C., through 2026. His work has been acquired by many public and private collections. He has completed major commissioned projects for museums including the Denver Art Museum, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Amon Carter Museum of American Art, and El Museo del Barrio. He has participated in numerous residencies, and has curated exhibitions and co-produced unique projects like *Live in America*. He is the recipient of the 2018 Alan Turing LGBTQ Award for International Artist, and a recipient of the 2021 Joan Mitchell Fellowship. He holds a BFA in fine art from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.



Miguel Arzabe (b. 1975, based in Oakland) works in painting, weaving, and video. He starts by finding outdated beauty in paper ephemera from art shows, modernist paintings, and discarded audio recordings. These materials are methodically analyzed, deconstructed, and reverse-engineered. Drawing inspiration from the cultural techniques and motifs of his Andean heritage, Arzabe weaves the fragments together, revealing uncanny intersections between form and content, the nostalgic and the hard-edged, failure and recuperation. The complexity and rigor of Miguel's practice have evolved into a distinctly singular aesthetic, evident in his recent exhibitions at the ICA San Francisco and the de Young Museum. David B. Smith Gallery is thrilled to include Miguel's work at NADA Miami for the first time.

Arzabe's work has been featured in international museums and galleries such as MAC Lyon (France), MARS Milan (Italy), RM Projects (Auckland), FIFI Projects (Mexico City), the Contemporary Jewish

Museum (San Francisco), Berkeley Art Museum, the CCA Wattis Institute, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. His work has been included in many international festival and biennials such as Hors Pistes (Centre Pompidou, Paris), Festival du Nouveau Cinéma (Montreal), and the Geumgang Nature Art Biennale (Gongju, South Korea). Arzabe's work is held in public collections such as the Harn Museum of Art in Gainesville, FL; the de Young Museum; Albuquerque Museum of Art; Oakland Museum of California; San Francisco Arts Commission; the State of California; as well as numerous private collections. He has attended many residencies including Facebook AIR, Headlands Center for the Arts, Montalvo Arts Center, Millay Arts, and Santa Fe Art Institute.

He holds a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University, an MS in Environmental Fluid Dynamics from Arizona State University, and an MFA from UC Berkeley. In 2022 Arzabe was awarded the San Francisco Bay Area Artadia Award. In 2023 he was awarded a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant and a Golden Foundation Residency. In 2024 his work was featured in the exhibitions *About Place* at the de Young Museum and *The Poetics of Dimensions* at the ICA San Francisco. In September of 2025 he unveiled his largest work to date, a public artwork commissioned by the New York Percent for Art for a new construction high school in Queens, NY. His work was recently featured in the contemporary art survey *TEXTILES x ART* published by Thames & Hudson AU (2025).

About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions in its Denver location, featuring the region's most important emerging talent alongside internationally recognized artists. Through its curatorial program, participation in art fairs, and extensive media coverage in publications such as *Artforum*, *Art in America*, and *ARTnews*, David B. Smith Gallery has cultivated a strong regional, national and international collector audience. *The New York Times* hailed the gallery as offering "an exciting contrast of cutting edge works." The gallery also maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues and editions.

David B. Smith Gallery is a member of the New Art Dealers Alliance (NADA).