

CURATORIAL STATEMENT

Curator **c.martino** is a dedicated explorer of the everyday, carefully mapping the unsettling terrain hidden within the familiar geography of the banal and quotidian. His curatorial efforts offer keen-eyed commentary on a post-industrial, self-obsessed society devoted to full contact narcissism, spending-as-spirituality, technology run amok, rapacious greed and escalating cultural insanity masquerading as clever hipster empowerment.

A committed regionalist, Martino mines the specifics of Southern California's many (un)realities to communicate the universal truths of a society-on-the-brink. Of particular interest: the powerful axis of experience and aesthetics that runs from Tijuana to Los Angeles through San Diego. For Martino, the shiny false fronts of this promised land open to reveal darker realities lurking in the shadows just beyond the seductive gleam of the superficial. His curatorial philosophy is further defined by allegiance to contemporary art that offers conceptual rigor, thematic resonance and aesthetic bona fides – a trifecta delivering powerful, thought provoking work that demands to be seen, experienced and discussed.



Promising a behind-the-scenes guided tour through the frantic mindscape of the modern psyche, Martino's curatorial GPS maps a glittering megalopolis of fame worship, rampant consumerism and constant anxiety where appearance and reality, the surface of things vs. their underlying structure, are often dangerously at odds. Here the "likes" are from frenemies and the hip modern facades are false fronts designed to collapse for the insurance money.

A 21st century carnival barker, Martino tempts the willing masses with warped, peep-show visions of the American Dream, leading us down a Golden Road of Excess we are unable to pay for but cannot stop building (or posting our dubious progress to the latest social media app).

CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE

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|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Basile.I.E. | San Diego, CA | FEB 2016 – present |
| Los Angeles Art Association | Los Angeles, CA | FALL 2014 Selection Committee |
| Co:Merge | San Diego, CA | 2011 – 2013 |
| Project X: Art | San Diego, CA | 2009 – 2011 |
| The Guild | San Diego, CA | 2007 – 2008 |
| eMerge Artspace | Los Angeles, CA | 2003 – 2005 |
| Gallery X | San Diego, CA | 2000 – 2002 |

EDUCATION

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| Bachelor of Science (<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>) | Business Administration | San Diego State University |
| MBA | International Marketing | San Diego State University |