

# FROELICK GALLERY

For immediate release:

**Solo Exhibit:**

**Victor Maldonado**

*Liberation Stories*

**\*\*October 30 to December 1, 2018\*\***

First Thursday: November 1<sup>st</sup>, 5pm – 8:00pm

714 NW Davis St, Portland, OR 97209

503-222-1142 [www.froelickgallery.com](http://www.froelickgallery.com) [info@froelickgallery.com](mailto:info@froelickgallery.com)

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday 10:30 to 5:30pm

**Exhibit tour and discussion with the artist: Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 11am**



**Victor Maldonado** returns to Froelick Gallery with a new exhibition of their monumental acrylic on canvas paintings titled ***Liberation Stories***. This body of work is a stirring response by a Mexican-born American artist to the policies and rhetoric of our political era. Painted in dynamic, linear strokes that have a sense of frenetic action and graphic definition, Maldonado's imagery is of struggle and of respite from the struggle.

In *The Fallen*, a superheroic masked luchador is laid out on the ground, beaten down but perhaps

not finished; candy-colored layers of paint reveal numerous luchadores observing, grappling, in repose. Other paintings depict thriving, twisting garden plants and sumptuous pink blossoms. *Sala Roja* shows a domestic interior with couch, carpet and vanishing hallway rendered in dripping reds and pinks; these touches of home are in contrast to the slashing, frenetic grid composition of *Enclosure*, which evokes the fearful plight of detained migrant and refugee people, of separated families and of children in cages.

An early realization for Maldonado was that artmaking could act as a way to disarm tormentors and gather loved ones closer. *Liberation Stories* is an extension of this, for this time of danger for many that is also inseparably personal for the artist.

Victor Maldonado is a multidisciplinary artist, freelance curator, and writer who lives and works in Portland, OR. Born in 1976 in Changuitrio, Michoacan, Mexico, they grew up in the Central San Joaquin Valley of California in a family of migrant field laborers. A faculty member at the Pacific Northwest College of Art since 2007, they were named Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusions in Fall of 2018. Maldonado holds a BFA in Painting and Drawing from the California College of Art (2000), and an MFA in Painting and Drawing from the School of Art Institute in Chicago (2005). Their work is included in the permanent collections of the Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma, WA, the Museum of Fine Art, Houston, TX and the Hallie Ford Museum of Art, Salem, OR. They have guest curated Oregon Public Broadcasting's arts program *State of Wonder*, and they also completed a printmaking residency at Crow's Shadow Institute of the Arts in Pendleton, OR.

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