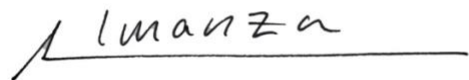


## ARTIST STATEMENT

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ORLANDO ALMANZA  
2023

I am drawn to stories. I love to listen to myths, legends, and stories and to hold them in my mind. To imagine how they occurred. My passion and work is to find the visual universe where myths exist and to commit them to memory on canvas. My pieces often begin with sculpture-like figures which are then layered with paint and colors. I like to leave lines, clues and hidden surprises in my pieces, exploring the nuance and layers of each moment. In my work, nothing is certain, nothing is finished, nothing is exactly as it seems. Spirit-like figures appear momentarily, half-truth, half-myth. Fantastical creatures are nestled behind palms and colorful flowers. Lush landscapes and colors give a sense of the unknown, of our hopes and fears and all things both real and imagined.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Orlando Almanza". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. Below the signature is a horizontal line that starts under the first letter and extends to the right, ending under the last letter.