

“Shaped by the Other” Santiago Cal, 2019



Working in diverse mediums, including drawing, sculpture, sound, and video, Santiago Cal brings two collections in this exhibition. The first collection explores Cal’s identity as formed by objects commonly associated with Latin America — guayaberas, machetes, and chanclas. The work creates cultural metaphors from everyday items that contribute, both materially and spiritually, to the artist’s sense of identity.

The second collection turns an eye to Cal’s immediate family in a series of arresting sculptures and sketches of his sleeping wife and child. Exploring the notion of the family as a “collective self,” Cal explains “We shape each other through consideration and change. I find that growth resulting from this reflection occurs just prior to sleep, which is why I have chosen this particular time and place to explore.”

“Who I am is no longer something that’s dictated by me.”



Meet the Artist!

Santiago Cal was born in Belize, and moved to the United States at the age of thirteen. He studied sculpture at Kutztown University earning a BFA, and at Virginia Commonwealth University earning his MFA. He now lives and works in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he teaches sculpture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Cultural Artifacts

Santiago Cal's work explores cultural artifacts that define his identity. This activity invites you to investigate and celebrate artifacts from your own life.

<https://www.u-ca.org/exhibition/shaped-by-the-other>

Essential Questions

What is the artifact?

Who uses it and how?

What makes it unique to your culture?

Why is this artifact important to everyday life?

How does this artifact relate to your identity?

What gratitude do you have for this artifact?



1. Artifacts are human-made objects of cultural interest. Think of what everyday objects from your life are unique to your culture. These objects could include clothing, accessories, footwear, tools, cooking utensils, dishware, toys, decorations, etc. Choose one or a few to be your artifacts.
2. Create an artistic representation of your artifacts. Trace their outlines, take photographs, draw them in a still life, recreate them three-dimensionally with cardboard or clay, or use whatever materials you like best.
3. Share your art with friends and family. Discuss the essential questions.