



Be my Voice
maría moreno

Window Gallery
January 20 - March 16
Modern Fuel Artist-Run Centre

Biography

maría moreno is an award-winning Venezuelan-Canadian abstract painter whose unique style has been defined by patience, trust, persistence, neither guided nor deterred by tradition or social convention.

Working mainly in acrylics, maría's paintings are rich with texture, sharp in contrast, traversing from the political to the natural and beyond. Born in The Canary Islands and raised in Caracas, Venezuela, the artist's choices in design and colour are intrinsically linked to the countries of her youth. As a result, her paintings are visceral and boundless - a passionate embodiment of her own personal experiences.

maría has participated in solo and group exhibitions at both national and international levels, as well as in regional art fairs. Her paintings are held in private and corporate collections in Canada, USA and South America.

Artist Statement

It is a quest for freedom and truth that fuels my insatiable passion to paint. My journey is revealed not with words, but through intoxicating colour, design, and moments of sheer abandonment. As an abstract painter, I choose strength over gentleness, audacity over caution, chaos over order and, expression over silence. My paintings are visual expressions of a heart's longing for freedom and hope. They are my story.

About the Exhibition

Adapting to a new life is never easy. As an immigrant you have to face many challenges, to adapt to all that is new - your surroundings, the culture and learning to speak a new language. Knowing that my homeland, Venezuela, and its people were immersed in an unimaginable political and economic crisis made my transition especially difficult. While I enjoyed unbelievable freedom, my country was being torn apart. As an artist, painting became not only my refuge but a way to communicate when words failed.

Be my Voice, my first solo exhibition, was presented at the Parrott Gallery in Belleville in July 2018. It is a collection of around 35 paintings created between 2017 and 2018, with the intent to expose how my beautiful country, Venezuela, was while being devastated by a profound political turmoil.

In this exhibition, a selection of pieces from my 2018 exhibition will be presented, along with new pieces that portray the evolution of my feelings.

With some ups and downs in the last decade, Venezuela is still engulfed in a profound political and economic crisis. The exodus of Venezuelans - some seven million people of all ages who have left the country since 2014 - constitutes the largest migration crisis in Latin American history. Stories of desperation, sadness and uncertainty are behind these statistics.

Be my Voice is a reflection of my profane despair, frustration and fear of the future. It is also a hope that the beauty will one day shine on this wonderful country and their people again!



Éxodo I (Exodus I)

Acrylic on canvas, 20 x 20 inches, 2018

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Ciudad fragmentada (Fragmented City)

Acrylic, collage on canvas, 40 x 30 inches, 2017

My beautiful, unforgettable Caracas... “the city of the red roofs” as they used to call her. Now socially and politically fragmented, shattered into pieces.



Un grito de libertad (A Cry for Freedom)

Acrylic, Japanese paper on canvas, 16 x 12 inches, 2018

Freedom. It's the most sacred of all gifts. Some are born into it many have to fight for it.



La vida en una maleta (Life in a Suitcase)

Acrylic, Japanese paper on canvas, 24 x 24 inches, 2018

When your country is immersed in a terrible socio-political crisis and you have to pack a suitcase, not with clothes, but with your whole life in it. What's inside? Dreams, experiences, memories...

Modern Fuel Artist-Run Centre is a non-profit organization facilitating the presentation, interpretation, and production of contemporary visual, time-based and interdisciplinary arts. Modern Fuel aims to meet the professional development needs of emerging and mid-career local, national and international artists, from diverse cultural communities, through exhibition, discussion, and mentorship opportunities. Modern Fuel supports innovation and experimentation and is committed to the education of interested publics and the diversification of its audiences. As an advocate for contemporary art, as well as for artists' rights, we pay professional fees to artists in accordance with the CARFAC fee schedule.

Modern Fuel is situated on the unceded ancestral territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabeg peoples. We acknowledge the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabeg peoples as the past, present, and future caretakers of this land. We also recognize the Métis peoples and other nations from across Turtle Island who have called Katarokwi / Kingston home for generations upon generations. We are grateful to be able to live, learn and make art on this land and be in such close proximity to the waters of the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario. To acknowledge this traditional territory and waterways is to recognize this city and country's longer history pre-dating confederation and the work that must still be done in decolonizing our spaces and relations. We at Modern Fuel strive towards respectful relationships with all of our communities in hopes of walking a good path together.

We at Modern Fuel want to state unequivocally that Black lives matter, Indigenous lives matter, and that the lives of People of Colour matter. Modern Fuel strives to ensure that members and visitors feel safe and welcome in our space and at our events. We do not tolerate discrimination, harassment, or violence including but not limited to ableism; ageism; homophobia and transphobia; misogyny; racism and white supremacy. It is also important to us that Modern Fuel not only continues to present works and programs that support Black and Indigenous artists, members and visitors, but invests in the work of becoming an inclusive, anti-racist organization. We feel it is only then that Modern Fuel can advocate for artists and foster community with care and respect.

Modern Fuel is open Tuesday to Saturday 12PM to 5PM. We're located in the Tett Centre for Creativity and Learning, Unit #305 on 307 King Street West, Kingston, ON. Stop by for a visit or stay up to date online at modernfuel.org.

Thanks to our Funders

