



## Texas-born, Maryland-based artist René Treviño embraces complexity, brings layered work to KyCAD

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*Louisville, KY*—René Treviño reminds us that history is subjective and complicated. But the Texas-born, gay, Mexican-American artist, who brings his artwork to the Kentucky College of Art + Design at Spalding University in February, is not interested in simplification. Quite the opposite, in fact.



“My work is an attempt to make our already complicated history even more complicated,” Treviño says. “The more layers that I present, the closer I can get to something that might resemble truth.”

Treviño, who now lives and works in Baltimore, creates paintings, drawings and sculptural installations using ancient imagery from what we now call Mexico and re-interpretations of patriotic, art historic and pop-cultural symbols. His artwork addresses a personal quest for heroism, bravery and a need to define a place in the world.

*René Treviño, "Death and Zero," 2017*

KyCAD’s 849 Gallery. The work in this exhibition stems from research of pre-Hispanic Mexican codices as well as Mayan and Aztec stone relief carvings. “The bright metallic leather skins represent the natural treasures and artifacts that were stolen from the indigenous people during the Spanish conquest,” Treviño says. “Throughout my work are themes of identity. I am

Treviño will show approximately 15 works at



interested in challenging traditional ideas of race and sexual orientation.”

Treviño acknowledges that society has made great strides in recent years, but the battle for inclusiveness is far from over. “We are still lacking the representation of fully diverse voices, so I feel compelled to make thoughtful, beautiful, and sometimes humorous work that confronts societal assumptions and gives new insight into our human experience.”

### **Dorado**

Exhibition featuring the work of René Treviño

Artist Reception 02.08.18, 5-7pm

Exhibition on view 02.01.18 - 03.09.18

849 Gallery, KyCAD  
849 S. Third St.  
Louisville, KY 40203

Gallery hours: Thursday & Friday 11:30am-2:30pm, or by appointment,  
502.873.4373

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THE KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF ART + DESIGN AT SPALDING UNIVERSITY (KyCAD) is a 501(c)(3) started in 2009 with the vision to build one of the top art schools in the nation. Students in the KyCAD program can receive a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art from Spalding University. KyCAD maintains a variety of arts outreach programs, including the 849 Gallery, which showcases rotating exhibitions, lectures and workshops by artists from KyCAD and from across the country. [KyCAD.spalding.edu](http://KyCAD.spalding.edu)