

# PHYSIS

Sergio Gomez  
New Paintings



MUSEO REGIONALE  
DI SCIENZE NATURALI



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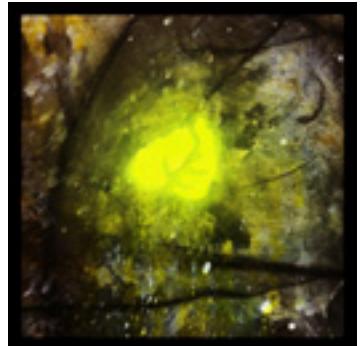
July 5 to August 31, 2012

Via Giolitti, 36  
10123 Torino  
Italy

Photos by Max Conti  
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## SERGIO GOMEZ: IL CUORE PULSANTE DELLA NATURA



Un'arte metropolitana, fortemente interiorizzata e umana, quella di Sergio Gomez, poliedrico protagonista della scena artistica internazionale, curatore di mostre, gallerista, fotografo, pittore, designer, videoartista, performer. Una personalità che fa dell'intensità gestuale, dinamica, cromatica, chiaroscuro il punto focale di ogni suo lavoro artistico, simbolicamente proteso alla scoperta dell'anima umana attraverso l'elaborazione del reale.

L'arte di Sergio Gomez è quindi specchio dell'epoca inquieta in cui viviamo, azzardo dialettico tra l'uomo e la sua storia, tra il mondo e le sue paure disgreganti. La natura e l'universo entrano nell'opera di Gomez per svelare anche lo spirito dell'uomo, ne scavano l'inconscio, suggerendo il nettare dell'esistenza, in un continuo dispiegarsi del tempo, delle stagioni, della vita. Per questa mostra al Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali di Torino Sergio Gomez ha preparato una serie di lavori legati dal filo conduttore della natura, intesa come elemento vitale dell'Essere e del mondo.

Il germoglio che nasce dal cuore dell'artista, così come gli organi vitali divenuti radici e rami protesi in tutto il corpo di queste figure evanescenti presenti in ogni opera, simbolo di tutta l'umanità, sono metafora del mutamento, della crescita di un sentimento e di un'idea ecologista nell'anima della società contemporanea.

Sono vene e arterie che pulsano di linfa vitale e sangue, creano sinapsi vegetali e psicologiche, intellettive e culturali. Il cuore dell'artista batte all'unisono con quello della natura, ne diventa parte, si trasforma esso stesso in energia, portando a compimento una metamorfosi completa tra corpo e spirito. Anche la tecnica ad acrilico su carta e tela, due materiali naturali uniti e fusi insieme, permette di creare una sovrapposizione iconografica e dialettica tra umanità e mondo esterno, in un dialogo interiore e silente di speranze e nuove paure per la condizione dell'uomo, della natura, del pianeta e del nostro futuro.

Nel contrasto cromatico, quasi monocromo, dei lavori, emerge con impeto il segno dell'autore, l'impronta fisica ed effimera dell'artista, che plasma i volumi e le forme, che delinea i contorni come fossero paesaggi dell'inconscio. Le presenze antropomorfe nei dipinti di Gomez assecondano un'idea di divinità panteista, completamente immersa nel divenire continuo dell'esistenza. Come icone sacre, i suoi profili umani ci introducono in una dimensione 'altra', come fossero porte aperte sull'inconscio, solo in parte svelato dalla poetica dell'autore, in parte ancora celato agli occhi del mondo. L'arte riesce così a comunicarci un sentimento profondo di rinascita insito nella società contemporanea, fortemente voluto, ma contrastato dal malessere inquietante che serpeggiava nella nostra epoca tanto sprovveduta, quanto irresponsabile. Sergio Gomez è nato in Messico, a Puebla, nel 1971 e all'età di sedici anni si è trasferito a Chicago con la famiglia formandosi presso le più prestigiose istituzioni culturali e artistiche del territorio. Sono numerosissime le sue mostre personali in musei e fondazioni internazionali, ma Sergio Gomez è anche noto per le sue performance dal vivo, coinvolgenti e informali. Titolare e Direttore della 33Contemporary Gallery di Chicago, Gomez è curatore indipendente del Zhou Brothers Art Center di Chicago e docente al South Suburban College. Anche graphic e web designer, è noto in tutto il mondo.

Guido Folco

## SERGIO GOMEZ: THE HEART OF NATURE



Highly personal and human is the metropolitan art of Sergio Gomez, a versatile protagonist of the international art scene, curator, gallery owner, designer, painter, professor, and performance artist. He possesses a personality that demonstrates gestural intensity, dynamism, color, chiaroscuro, focus, and is symbolically reaching out to explore the human soul through the development of the real.

The art of Sergio Gomez is a restless mirror of the times in which we live. It is a challenging dialectic between man and history, and between the world and its fears. The nature and the universe enter the work of Gomez to reveal the spirit of mankind, digging the unconscious and absorbing the nectar of life in a continuous unfolding of time and the seasons of life.

For this exhibition at the Regional Museum of Natural Sciences of Turin, Sergio Gomez has prepared a series of works unified by the theme of nature as a vital element of the being and the world. The germination that evolves from the heart of the artist along with vital organs become roots and branches reaching across the body of these evanescent figures present in every work. This is symbolically true of all humanity and it is a metaphor for change; the growth of an ecological mantra and an idea within the soul of a contemporary society.

They are the veins and arteries pulsing blood and vitality, creating ecological, psychological, intellectual and cultural synapses. The artist's heart beats in unison to that of nature becoming part of it. It transforms itself into energy, carrying through a complete metamorphosis between body and spirit. The technique in acrylic on paper and canvas, two natural materials fused together, create an overlap and iconographic dialectic between humanity and the outside world. Through his inner dialogue grows a silent hope for the human condition, nature, the planet and our future.

In contrasting color, almost monochromatic, emerges with impetus the personal traits of the artist characterized by his own physical outline defining volumes and shapes and the contours of the unconscious as if they were landscapes. The anthropomorphic presences in the paintings of Gomez nourish an idea of pantheistic deity, becoming completely immersed in continuous existence. Similar to sacred icons, its human profiles introduce us to another dimension, as if they were open to the unconscious, only partly revealed by the poetry of the author partially hidden from the eyes of the world.

The art is thus able to express a deep feeling of rebirth ingrained in contemporary society. Although strongly desired, it is contrasted by the lack of consciousness and responsibility of our time. Sergio Gomez was born in Mexico, Puebla in 1971. At the age of sixteen, his family moved to Chicago and he attended prestigious artistic cultural institutions in the area. His work has been exhibited in countless solo shows in museums and international foundations. Sergio Gomez is also known for his live drawing performances. He is the owner and Director of 33 Contemporary Gallery in Chicago. Gomez is the Director of Exhibitions at the Zhou B Art Center in Chicago. He is also an accomplished professor at South Suburban College, graphic and web designer.

Guido Folco

## UN SEGNO DI LUCE

C'è sempre un segno di luce nei dipinti di Sergio Gomez: sia che si tratti di ipotetiche farfalle notturne sia che si trovi nel punto esatto dove si colloca il cuore dell'uomo, quel segno luminoso ne fa il tratto distintivo del pensiero dell'artista che si muove a suo agio tra queste figure.

Sembrano figure tristi, completamente prigionieri del ritmo che la vita ha loro imposto: frenetica, metropolitana, assente. Ma, come si dice in Italia, al cuore non si comanda e quella piccola brillante luce verde sta lì a dimostrarlo.

La sensazione che si prova è la stessa che si ha davanti ad una lampadina di ultima generazione, a basso impatto voltagico, che si illumina a poco a poco. Se si guardano a lungo, per il tempo necessario, le opere di Gomez subiscono una metamorfosi: quei punti verdi si fanno sempre più luminosi, invadono lentamente il quadro, ne rischiarano le figure fino a dar loro un volto.

E l'uomo non appare più come stressato, teso, sempre allerta ma come un personaggio gentile (colpa o fortuna del tratto di Gomez), pieno di desiderio di muoversi alla scoperta di nuove parti del mondo, nuove persone a cui sorridere. Quel fascio di venature, più o meno sottili, che delinea il corpo umano dei dipinti non fa più timore come ad un primo sguardo superficiale, perché quella minuscola foglia luminosa lo rende più caloroso. Sembra quasi che quel piccolo segno abbia la forza di trasformare i sentimenti, come la malinconia, come il fondersi tutt'uno con la natura, con cui affrontare un cammino pacato ma al tempo stesso inquieto nel cuore della notte.

Sotto il segno della sua arte, che si ritrova in ogni dettaglio del luogo in cui Gomez crea, l'artista vuole ricondurre la ricerca di identità; un'identità che si riproduce in uno stile figurativo, ma anche un'identità di pensiero che necessita di non osservare in modo superficiale le sue opere. Occorre guardarle con occhi liberi.

Luigi Franchi

## A SIGN OF LIGHT

There is always a sign of light in the paintings by Sergio Gomez; whether a hypothetical nocturnal moth placed in the exact spot where the heart of man lies or a shining beacon that makes the distinctive feature of the thought of an artist which moves easily between these figures. Figures appear sad completely captive by the rhythm that life has imposed upon them; frantic, metropolitan, absent. However, as we say in Italy, the heart cannot be controlled and the small bright green light is there to prove it.

The feeling you get is the same that you have when you are in front of the latest generation's low-voltage light bulb which illuminates slowly. If you observe long enough, the works of Gomez undergo a metamorphosis. The green spots become more luminous and the painting slowly invades and illuminates the figures to reveal a face.

The man is no longer as stressed, tense, aware, but humbled (or merely a lucky stroke of Gomez), full of desire to move along to explore new parts of the world and new people in his search for happiness. The multiple veins, more or less subtle, which outline the human body are no longer afraid of the paintings as that tiny leaf of light makes it warmer.

Like melancholy, it almost seems that the small symbol should have the power to transform the sentiments. As this merging becomes one with nature, it faces a peaceful path. At the same time it becomes restless in the middle of the night. Beneath the mark of his art, which can be found in every detail of the works Gomez creates, the artist wants to bring back the quest for identity. Such identity reproduces itself in a figurative style. It is also an identity of thinking that needs not to be observed in a superficial manner. Rather, it should be observed with uninhibited eyes.

Luigi Franchi



Sergio Gomez was born in Mexico in 1971. At the age of sixteen, he and his family moved from Mexico City to the Chicago area where he has lived since 1988. Sergio Gomez attended Joliet Junior College, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Governors State University and Northern Illinois University where he received a Master of Fine Arts Degree. In 1995, while at Governors State University, Sergio received the Lincoln Laureate Medallion Award given by the Lincoln Academy and former Governor of Illinois, Mr. Jim Edgar.

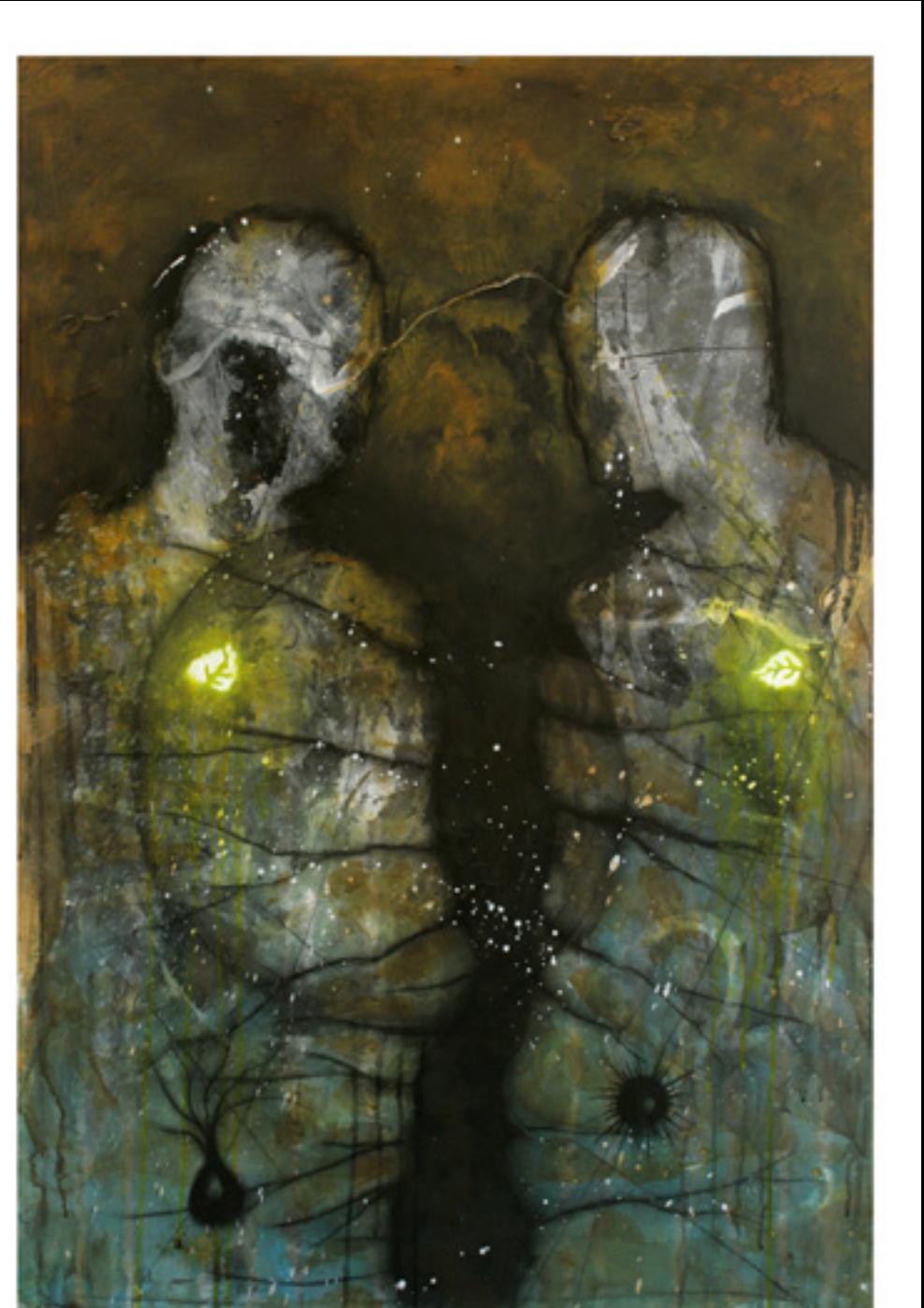
The art of Sergio Gomez has been included in numerous solo and group exhibitions nationally and internationally in venues such as, Regional Museum on Natural Science of Turin Italy, The National Museum of Mexican Art, Brauer Museum of Art, Museum of Science and Industry, Aldo Castillo Gallery, 33 Contemporary Gallery, Beverly Art Center, and many colleges and universities.

Sergio Gomez is owner/Director of 33 Contemporary Gallery, Curator and Director of Exhibitions at the Zhou B. Art Center. In January 2009, Sergio founded VisualArtToday.com; a curated online exhibition space for international contemporary art. In addition, Sergio is an accomplished graphic designer, web designer, illustrator, art & design professor at South Suburban College, Creative Consultant for Idea Seat Marketing and co-founder of 3C Wear.



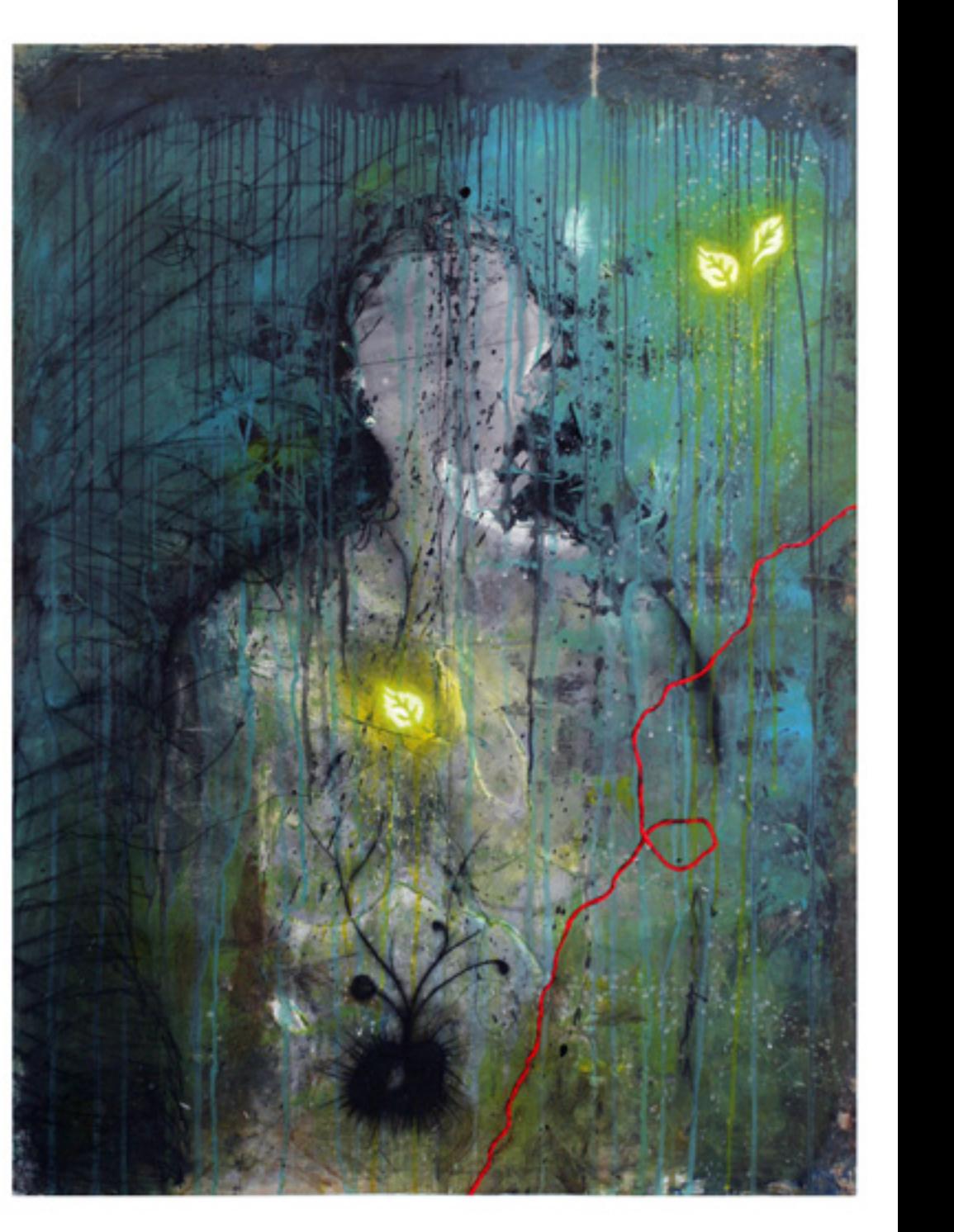
## PHYSIS I

Acrylic on paper/canvas  
52 x 36 inches  
2012



## PHYSIS II

Acrylic on paper/canvas  
51 x 36 inches  
2012



**PHYSIS III**

Acrylic on paper/canvas  
47 x 35 inches  
2012



**PHYSIS IV**

Acrylic on paper/canvas  
48 x 36 inches  
2012



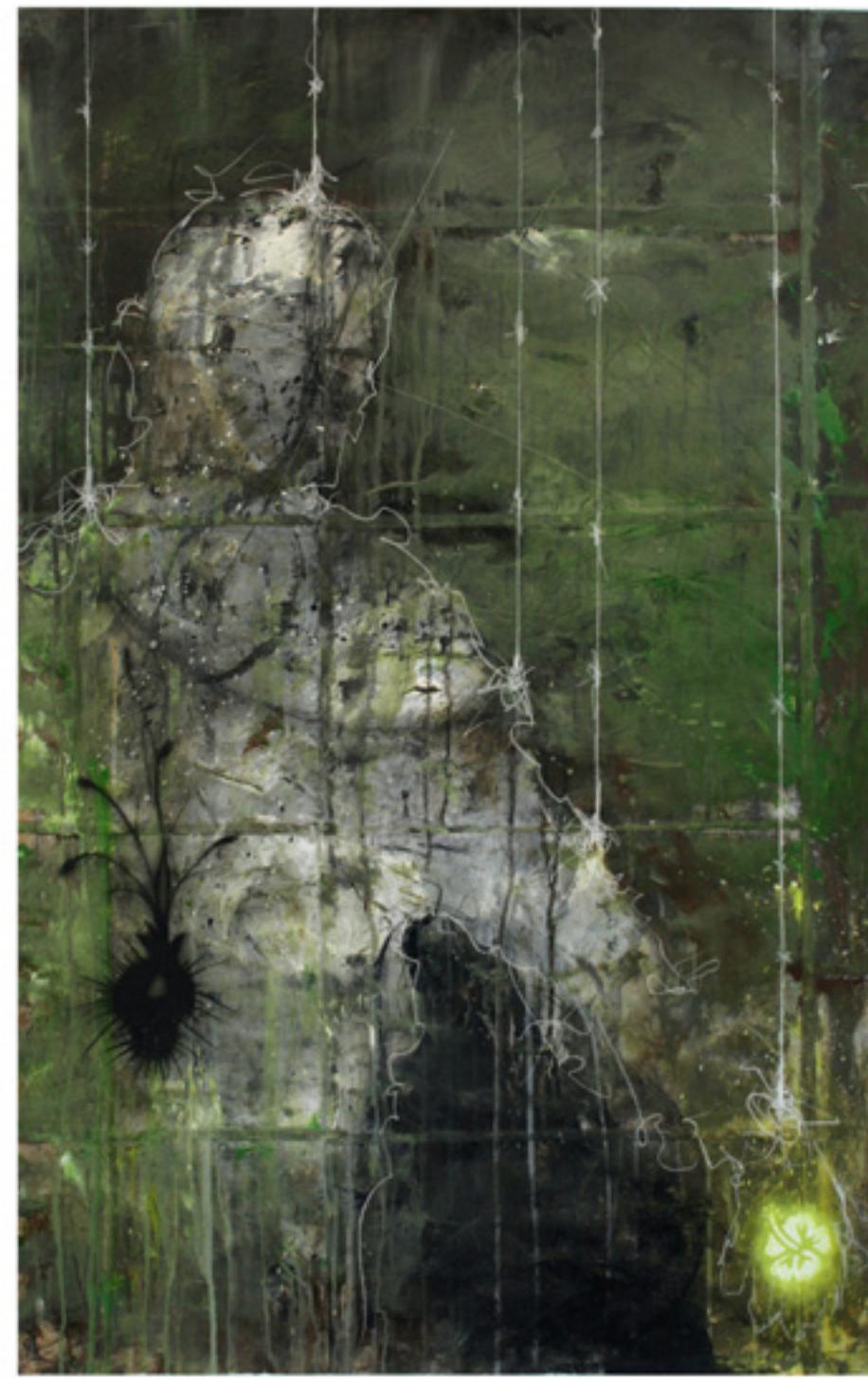
**PHYSIS V**

Acrylic on paper/canvas  
52 x 36 inches  
2012



## PHYSIS VI

Acrylic on paper/canvas  
47 x 35 inches  
2012



**PHYSIS VII**

Acrylic on paper/canvas  
52 x 35 inches  
2012



**PHYSIS VIII**

Acrylic on paper/canvas  
42 x 27 inches  
2012



## PHYSIS IX

Acrylic on paper/canvas  
42 x 28 inches  
2012

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## EDUCATION

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
Master of Fine Arts, Painting, 2005

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY  
Master of Arts, Painting and Drawing, 1999  
Bachelor of Arts, Painting and Drawing, 1996

THE SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO  
1993-1994  
Concentration: Painting and Drawing

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 "Physis" Regional Museum of Natural Science in Turin, Italy
- 2011 "Sergio Gomez, Solo Exhibition" Union Street Gallery, Chicago Heights, IL
- 2010 "Coram-Deo" The Mary-Frances and Bill Veeck Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2009 "Calmness" 33 Collective Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2008 "Perceived Presence" The Illinois Institute of Art, Schamburg, IL
- 2007 "Sergio Gomez" Richland Community College, Decatur, IL
- "Sergio Gomez" Benedictine College, Lisle, IL
- "New Small Works" Imagine Foundation, Jacksonville, IL
- 2006 "New Paintings" 33 Collective Gallery, Chicago, IL
- "Selected Works" Lincoln Land Community College, IL
- "Undisclosed Presence", Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, IL
- 2005 "Sergio Gomez", 33 Collective Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2003 "Small Paintings by Sergio Gomez", Salon 101, Munster, IN
- 2001 "Spiritual Journeys" South Suburban College, South Holland, IL
- 2000 "Encuentros" Chicago Lawn Alliance Church, Chicago, IL
- "Windows of Hope" YMCA Sawyer Center, Hammond, IN
- "From the Spirit to the Flesh" Virtual Artist Fine Art Gallery, Internet
- 1999 Sergio Gomez, Paintings & Drawings, Kankakee Community College, Kankakee, IL
- "Epaggelia 99" Sergio Gomez, Peace Community Church, Frankfort, IL
- "Disclosure, from the Spirit to the Flesh" Governors State University, University Park, IL
- "Conversations" Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, IL
- 1998 "Reshaping the Self" Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, IL
- "Facing the Spirit" Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN
- 1997 "Paintings by Sergio Gomez" Park Forest Art Center, Park Forest, IL
- 1995 "Dialogs of Identity" Governors State University, University Park, IL

## TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 "Presence Absence" Sergio Gomez & Mark Zlotkowski, Prairie State College, Chicago Heights, IL
- 2011 "16 Words of Hope & Bipolar World" Sergio Gomez & Petronilla Hohenwarter, Moedling, Vienna
- "Presence Absence" Sergio Gomez & Mark Zlotkowski, Krasl Art Center, Michigan, IN
- "Presence Absence" Sergio Gomez & Mark Zlotkowski, Indianapolis Art Center, Indianapolis, IN
- 2010 "Presence Absence" Sergio Gomez & Mark Zlotkowski, Noyes Cultural Art Center, Evanston, IL
- "Presence Absence" Sergio Gomez & Mark Zlotkowski, 33 Collective Gallery, Chicago, IL
- "Javier Chavira, Sergio Gomez: Figurative Works" Robert T. Wright Gallery, College of Lake County, IL
- 2009 "Judithe Hernandez and Sergio Gomez: Through the Labyrinth", Chicago State University, IL
- 2004 "Javier Chavira & Sergio Gomez, New Works" Aguirre Duron Gallery, Chicago, IL

## SELECTED COLLECTIONS

- Beverly Art Center, Chicago, IL
- Imagine Foundation, IL
- Brauer Museum of Art, Valparaiso, IN
- Fra Angelico Art Foundation, Chicago, IL
- Governors State University, University Park, IL
- Benedictine University, Wheaton, IL
- Joliet Junior College Art Collection, Joliet, IL
- Private collections in Canada, Puerto Rico, France, and United States.



