



Leonardo Madriz, *Letters to Home, Pt. 2*, 2023, Mixed media, video projection, audio, 9 x 11 x 6 ft.

Can't Forget, Dying to Know

February 3 – 22, 2023

An exhibition of works by Leonardo Madriz

Opening Reception: Friday, February 3, 6-8pm

NARS Main Gallery

In *Can't Forget, Dying to Know*, the first solo exhibition by Leonardo Madriz, there's a notion that lineage is mandatory but holding on is a choice—stories for the sake of home. A letter to the artist's late father, presented as an expanded cinema installation, grapples with loss and entanglements of blood, place, and time. Assemblages of home remnants accompany the letter, asserting that history is personal, grief is redemptive, and belonging is a story.

The show's centerpiece, *Letters to Home Pt. 2*, is an immersive cinematic experience in which Madriz delivers a letter to his late father, Julio. The letter unfolds as a film in two parts, projected onto a minimalist structure made of salvaged pieces from his father's shed. The film blurs modes of poetic documentary and narrative, punctuated with moments of abstraction that highlight the structure's materiality. Painterly gestures of discarded shingles and joint compound cascade from the rafter over worn shed panels and a fridge with magnets, forming a stage that invokes monolith and memorial. At once intimate and mythic, the letter reflects on how places and history link

across generations, how memory and loss mark a sense of home, and how leaving is intertwined with belonging. Likewise, the transformative nature of grief becomes evident as Madriz speaks affectionately to his father.

Alongside the installation is a series of wall works where themes of migration and home meet degradation and artifice. Crumbling drywall, roofing cement, astroturf, gold leaf, and destroyed flags come together in assemblages of coded narrative and abstraction, presenting the fragility of home against disillusionments of the American Dream.

In addition to regular gallery hours, Letters to Home, Pt. 2 will be presented as a series of screenings throughout the run of the show.

Leo Madriz (b.1987, Louisiana) is an interdisciplinary artist based in Brooklyn, New York. He holds an MFA from CUNY Hunter College (NY, 2021) and a BFA from Louisiana State University (2010). *Can't Forget, Dying to Know* at NARS Foundation (2023) is the artist's first solo exhibition. Recent group exhibitions include *CURRENTS New Media Festival 2022: Circuits*, Parallel Studios (Santa Fe, 2022); *Light and Shadow*, Longwood Gallery & BCA (NY 2022); *Lucky to Be Here*, Bronx Council on the Arts (NY, 2021); *Heaven*, 205 Hudson Street Gallery (NY, 2021); *Orphans of Painting II*, Ethan Cohen KuBe (NY, 2019); and *Waiting for the Garden of Eden*, White Box Gallery (NY, 2019). His work has been featured by Hyperallergic and in a spotlight by Hauser & Wirth.

The NARS Galleries are open Monday - Friday from 12 to 5 pm. For more information please call the office: 718-768-2765 or email info@narsfoundation.org.

The New York Art Residency and Studios (NARS) Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit arts organization committed to supporting artists and curators on an international level as well as engaging the local community in Brooklyn and the Greater New York area. Our mission is to present diverse platforms on which to nurture creative inspiration and innovative cross-pollination of ideas.

For further information, please contact us at www.narsfoundation.org / info@narsfoundation.org / 718-768-2765.



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