

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

Justin Favela

Ghostin'

June 16 — July 22, 2023

Opening Reception: Friday, June 16, 6 - 8 pm

Free and open to the public

David B. Smith Gallery is thrilled to announce the opening of *Ghostin'*, by Las Vegas, NV-based artist Justin Favela. Dovetailing with two other large scale installations opening in Denver this summer, Favela returns to the gallery for his second solo exhibition wherein he will transform the project room into an immersive, piñata-style interior of a lowrider.

Alluding to celebration and Mexican culture, Justin Favela's iconic style uses traditional piñata craft materials to tackle complex conversations. In *Ghostin'*, Favela creates the interior of the car of his dreams—a lowrider designed with autobiographical qualities. With bright white interior and metallic accents, *Ghostin'* features repeating rose and pinstripe paneling in homage to the Gypsy Rose, a pink 1964 Chevy Impala commonly agreed upon as the world's most famous lowrider.

While *Ghostin'* allows viewers to step inside the piñata-style interior of Favela's fantasy lowrider, in the Denver Art Museum's group exhibition *Desert Rider: Dreaming in Motion*, opening July 9th, Favela will create the three-dimensional, sculptural realization of this same imagined lowrider. Decked out in white and metallic gold and silver, Favela's sleek, sparkling lowrider captures the over-the-top, glamorous aesthetic of Elvis, Liberace, and Old Las Vegas.

Adding historical setting to the lowrider, opening June 11th at the Denver Botanic Gardens, *Justin Favela: Vistas in Color* is a solo exhibition of floor-to-ceiling landscapes of the Mojave, Sonora, and Chihuahua deserts—three locations with strong historical ties to lowrider culture. This sweeping 360 degree mural will envelope viewers in the center of three fluttering piñata deserts.

Favela's fantastical celebration of lowrider culture proudly rolls into Denver, CO via three-dimensional sculpture and large scale murals. As seen from the inside of the vehicle's cabin, the outside of the lowrider, and the deserts where lowrider culture came to be, *Ghostin'* is part of a powerful trifecta of projects that unapologetically vaults the cultural and historical impact of lowriders in contemporary society.

About Justin Favela

Justin Favela is known for his sculptures and large-scale installations that manifest his interactions with American pop culture, art history, and the Latinx experience. His piñata-inspired installations have been commissioned by museums including the Denver Art Museum, CO; Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, AR; El Museo del Barrio, NY; Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling, NY; and the Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, NV. He has exhibited his work at MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA and the Berman Museum, Collegetown, PA, among others. He was the recipient of the 2021 Joan Mitchell Foundation Fellowship and the 2018 Alan Turing LGBTQ+ Award for International Artist. Favela lives and works in Las Vegas.

About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions in its Denver location, featuring the region's most important emerging talent alongside internationally recognized artists. Through its curatorial program, participation in art fairs, and extensive media coverage in publications such as *Artforum*, *Art in America*, and *ARTnews*, David B. Smith Gallery has cultivated a strong regional, national and international collector audience. *The New York Times* hailed the gallery as offering "an exciting contrast of cutting edge works." The gallery also maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues and editions. David B. Smith Gallery is a member of the New Art Dealers Alliance (NADA).



Installation view of *Ghostin'* in the Project Room