

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

Sierra Montoya Barela

Living Room

May 17– June 15, 2019

Opening Reception: Friday, May 17th, 6 - 8 pm

Free and open to the public, artist in attendance



Image: Sierra Montoya Barela, *June 7th*, 2019, acrylic on canvas, 48 x 36 in. (121.92 x 91.44 cm)

David B. Smith Gallery is proud to present *Living Room* by Sierra Montoya Barela, a solo exhibition in the gallery's project room.

In her latest body of work, Montoya Barela delves into questions of perspective, traditional representation, still life, and symbolism, as pertaining to painting. Articulated in four substantial works, impossible spaces where laws of physical matter are broken and reconstructed yield familiar yet strange results. In these dreamlike spaces, Montoya Barela juxtaposes detailed textures with hard lines, intentionally creating visual rifts in her interior scenes. *Living Room* offers a viewing experience that never reaches a finite conclusion, but rather turns over and back on itself as constructed perspective lures the eye between undulating floorboards and the silent hands of ticking clocks.

Within her domestic interiors, resting on countertops or shifting between wooden legs, Montoya Barela's scenes are rife with classic symbols present throughout Western art history, as well as those with unique personal meaning. Often painting from digital drawings and collages she creates prior, her playful take on still life is a nod to convention while looking decidedly forward. With the occasional figure breezing by before they're identified or back corner that contorts into foreground, *Living Room* cleverly asks more questions than it answers. Embracing her impossible, invented spaces, Montoya Barela remarks, "they feel like places I'd see myself in."

About Sierra Montoya Barela

Sierra Montoya Barela is an artist living and working in Denver, Colorado. Barela earned a BFA in Painting from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2015 and was an Artist-In-Residence at the Vermont Studio Center and the Horned Dorset Colony later that year. She has since shown her work in various group and solo exhibitions, most recently at the Museo de las Americas (Denver, CO), Yes Ma'am Projects (Denver, CO) and as part of the Octopus Initiative at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver.

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 *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" and *The Denver Post* declared that it is the "premiere commercial space" in Denver. The gallery also maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues and editions.

###