

An oil painting of a man in a cowboy hat and red jacket holding a rifle, standing in a courtyard with a building and plants. The man is the central figure, wearing a light-colored cowboy hat, a red jacket over a white shirt, and grey trousers. He is holding a long rifle across his body. The background shows a building with a wooden beam and a window, and a courtyard with a brick path and various plants, including yellow flowers and green foliage. The painting has a textured, expressive style with visible brushstrokes and some white paint splatters.

**FRIEZE**  
**LOS ANGELES**

**JAVIER**  
**RAMIREZ**

S&T



# Frieze Los Angeles

## Javier Ramirez

Sow & Tailor is proud to announce our participation at Frieze Los Angeles 2024 with a solo presentation by Los Angeles-based artist Javier Ramirez in the Presents section curated by Essence Harden.

Javier Ramirez presents a new body of work featuring a suite of paintings and sculpture that explores a unique shared history of Angelino immigrant life. Ramirez's presentation serves as a testament to Los Angeles, with a particular focus on the immigrant communities that have significantly shaped the city's landscape - the suburban gardeners of L.A. Through his practice, Ramirez delves into the gardening practices of both the Japanese and Latinos, shedding light on their profound influence on our city.

The Japanese, who brought their timeless gardening knowledge to the West Coast in the early 20th century, find their story artfully depicted in Ramirez's work. Drawing from his own decade-long career as a bonsai gardener, Ramirez pays homage to the cultural exchange that has flourished in California soil. Ramirez is aware of the often overlooked contributions of Latino immigrants, specifically *jardineros*, who tirelessly maintain order in Los Angeles's suburban neighborhoods. His work beautifully captures the essence of their labor and its impact on the city's vibrant streets.

Ramirez's work showcases an amalgamation of elements from Japanese and Latino aesthetics. In a brilliant fusion of cultures, a box-shaped structure reminiscent of Catholic shrines in Latino households finds resonance with Shinto pagodas from Japan. His sculptures, meticulously placed on pedestals following bonsai display principles, come to life with a harmony that mirrors the beauty of nature.

Ramirez's paintings harness the visceral time-based quality of his chosen medium of acrylic paint through bold strokes and an attention to opacity and transparency, depicting the razor's edge between faded memories and forgotten histories. Ranging from figurative to abstract approaches, Ramirez's practice memorializes immigrant stories that are commonly ignored. Javier not only wants people to treasure the city we occupy but first and foremost honor and revere the generations and ancestries of the caretakers who tirelessly care for it.

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**Javier Ramirez** (b. 1982, Los Angeles, CA, USA) studied at Pasadena's Art Center College of Design (BFA, 2012). His paintings are composed of acrylic, oil, pencil, airbrush, and solid markers while his sculptures are composed of plaster, clay, metal, and found materials from his neighborhood. His work examines his identity, particularly his experiences living in an immigrant home. Ramirez also references the iconography and the vernacular culture of the San Fernando Valley's suburban landscape. The imagery of his paintings and sculptures evoke lighthearted, poignant, and tender memories of family, friends, and pets.

Ramirez has had solo exhibitions at Sow & Tailor, Los Angeles (2023) and Smoke the Moon, Santa Fe (2021). He has participated in numerous group exhibitions at Sow & Tailor, Los Angeles (2022); The Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, Los Angeles (2022); Franchise, Los Angeles (2022); Gallery Anthony, Chicago (2022); TBN Projects, Los Angeles (2022); Murmurs, Los Angeles (2021); and the Consulate General of Mexico for Pacific Standard Time, Los Angeles (2017). He has been featured in *LA Taco*. (2022), Group Show, *Grab*, Tetrapod Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (2021), Group Show, *Gasp Gallery Presents: David LaChapelle*, Gasp Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (2021).



Philosopher Gardener, 2024, 50" x 37.5", Acrylic, Graphite on Canvas