



## GenNext: Future So Bright

Rooted in Spanish Colonial traditions, the artists in this new exhibit reach for the stars



Holy Combo I, by Patrick McGrath Muniz

SANTA FE—The Museum of Spanish Colonial Art expands the definition of tradition this spring with its first comprehensive exhibit of contemporary artists. *GenNext: Future So Bright*, opening May 5 (through November 25) features 50 pieces from 20 trailblazing artists who blend historical inspiration with spray paint, highway signs, furniture, skateboards, tattoos, political commentary, and indigenous imagery.

“This younger generation is not dismissing tradition, but helping it grow,” says curator Jana Gottshalk. “They bring new perspectives on colonial art with pieces that echo tradition while predicting a bright future for the arts in New Mexico.”

Gottshalk gathered pieces from private collections all across the country, crafted by internationally known artists who’ve shown their work at Traditional Spanish Market and Contemporary Hispanic Market. They include near-legendary artists who have blazed a trail for pulling colonial imagery into contemporary art—Luis Tapia, Nicholas Herrera, Marie Romero Cash, Marian Martinez, and Frank Zamora. Joining them are up-and-comers, including:

- Brandon Maldonado ([brandonmaldonado.com](http://brandonmaldonado.com)) of Albuquerque, who uses traditional Spanish colonial and indigenous icons in classic compositions, such as ex-votos, to address current political issues such as race and the border.
- Thomas Vigil ([thomasvigil.com](http://thomasvigil.com)) of Española, who recycles old street signs and license plates for his classic imagery inspired by Spanish colonial art, using contemporary stencil techniques.
- Puerto Rico native Patrick McGrath Muñiz ([patrickmcgrath-art.com](http://patrickmcgrath-art.com)), who paints with a Renaissance eye while delivering visual puns and commentary on political and social issues. (Yes, that is a fast-food hamburger with fries, and Christopher Columbus does join Burger King in McGrath Muñiz's Holy Combo I).
- Erin Galvez ([eringalvez.com](http://eringalvez.com)) of Albuquerque, who employs a minimalist technique in her Mestizoan series to represent patterns within serapes. The pop-art effect references the broader geographic footprint of colonial Spain and invites viewers to bring their own points of view into discussions of identity.

“We are thrilled with Jana’s exhibit,” said Josef Díaz, the museum’s interim director. “These artists are pushing to incorporate innovative ideas and forms that stretch the boundaries of traditional iconography. When visitors walk through GenNext, they’ll hear a dialogue between past and present through our blend of historical and contemporary art.”

The Museum of Spanish Colonial Art and the Spanish Colonial Arts Society oversee the annual Spanish Market and its celebration of traditional art in the Santa Fe Plaza. This year’s event, July 28–29, coincides with the exhibit, giving visitors an opportunity to see the best in both traditional and contemporary work. Special events accompanying the exhibit throughout its run include:

- June 10, 2 pm, a talk by award-winning santero Arthur Lopez at the museum.
- July 25, 5:30 p.m., a panel discussion on “Future Tradition,” location TBD.
- August 9, 5:30 pm, a talk by Patrick McGrath Muñiz at the museum.
- September 21, 5:30 pm, “Drinking with the Artists”

Special thanks for this exhibition goes to New Mexico Hard Cider and SouthWest Promotionz.

For more information and high-res images of works in the exhibit, contact:

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The Museum of Spanish Colonial Art collects, preserves, and exhibits the Spanish colonial art of New Mexico and beyond, and educates the public about its related cultures and living traditions. It is located on Museum Hill, in Santa Fe, at 750 Camino Lejo. Call 505-982-2226 or log onto [spanishcolonial.org](http://spanishcolonial.org).