

CURATORIAL STATEMENT

Curator **c.martino** is a dedicated aesthetic explorer, intent on mapping the many variations of the American Dream that define our post-modern, pre-apocalyptic time and place. His curatorial efforts explore the ever-shifting terrain of modern life in pursuit of the emerging, the experimental and the new. A junction-maker, he forges connections between art, objects, environments and people. Martino is on a mission to infuse spaces with a sense of possibility, creating experiences that provoke, excite and inspire.

Martino's curatorial philosophy is defined by a rejection of the antiquated notional separations between high and low, the art world and the street, good taste and bad. The idea is what matters, not where it came from. He experiments fluidly across media, techniques, and materials, resisting the confines of a signature style or dogmatic approach. Instead, his allegiance is to contemporary art of all kinds that offers conceptual rigor, thematic resonance and aesthetic bona fides – a powerful trifecta delivering thought provoking work that demands to be seen, experienced and discussed.



A committed regionalist, Martino mines the specifics of Southern California's many (un)realities to communicate the universal truths of a society-on-the-brink. Of particular interest is the powerful axis of experience and aesthetics that runs from Tijuana to Los Angeles through San Diego. In this fertile, artistic *terra incognita* artifice is everywhere – what you see is rarely (if ever) what you get. For Martino, the shiny false fronts of this later-day promised land often open to reveal darker realities lurking in the shadows just beyond the seductive gleam of the superficial. From this compelling landscape he seeks to create experiences that people feel a visceral need with which to engage, elevating and activating spaces that are both carefully conceptualized and a joy to encounter.

A thinker of depth and direction, Martino's curatorial GPS ultimately embraces the enthusiastic blurring of creative boundaries to arrive at a clear set of fundamental imperatives that drive his approach: expertise, relationships, passion, and a deep faith in the age-old alchemical process of transforming experience into something that will stand the test of time.

CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE

basileIE	San Diego, CA	2015 – present
CM Curatorial	San Diego, CA	2014 – present
Los Angeles Art Association	Los Angeles, CA	FALL 2014 Selection Committee
Co:Merge	San Diego, CA	2011 – 2013
Project X: Art	San Diego, CA	2009 – 2011
The Guild	San Diego, CA	2007 – 2008
eMerge Artspace	Los Angeles, CA	2003 – 2005
Gallery X	San Diego, CA	2000 – 2002

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science (<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>)	Business Administration	San Diego State University
Master of Business Administration	International Business	San Diego State University