



Denver + Marfa rulegallery.com  
info@rulegallery.com 303-800-6776



## Hemispheric views on display in Denver galleries thanks to Biennial

Denver is rich in ambitious - and entertaining - art exhibits right now that connect it to the social and geographic issues of the world around it.

Ray Mark Rinaldi / September 29, 2017



Eduardo Portillo is a Houston-based artist whose work addresses natural terrain and the borders that define and disrupt it. His solo show at intimate Rule Gallery evokes both modern art history and current events.

The objects on display fall between genres. They appear as paintings, and also reliefs that hang on the walls while concurrently pressing away from them, due to the fact that he stretches his canvas on hand-made wood frames that vary in thickness. The practice leaves the surfaces looking irregular and uneven; with the same varying of high and low depths captured by topographical maps.

In a way they are simple, solitary objects that evoke the stripped-down sensibilities of minimalists like Ellsworth Kelly without the pure geometry. But they also reflect the complicated science and politics of the day. Portillo's more colorful

pieces are named after far-off stars, like the brilliant orange-y "Aldebaran." Others are muted into shades of white and named for deserts, like "Kalahari."

Portillo, who was born in 1986, is an immigrant to this country from El Salvador and it's possible to see his experience captured in his works. They are masses of land and sky without clear edges and sometimes with deep and violent divisions. They seem to float in the universe around them without obvious connections to anything.

Still, there is a confidence to them, due in equal parts to their craftsmanship and innovation. They may be lost, but they're graceful and determined.

"Frontera" runs until Oct. 28 at Rule, 530 Santa Fe Drive, 303-800-6776 or rulegallery.com