



# Review: Young Denver artist has “dazzling” museum debut at Museum of Contemporary Art

By Ray Mark Rinaldi, *Special to The Denver Post* · Apr 16, 2018, 1:33 pm

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Diego Rodriguez-Warner, untitled painting, 2016, acrylic, gouache, spray paint, latex paint and wood stain on carved panel. (Ray Mark Rinaldi, *Special to The Denver Post*)

Diego Rodriguez-Warner’s “Honestly Lying” at the MCA Denver is a dazzling museum debut by a young artist in his own hometown. The work on display is smashingly visceral, overloaded with big and colorful collages you can’t ignore. The technique he uses to produce it — covering wood panels with paint and stain like a painter, but also carving into their surfaces the way a printmaker creates a block for printing — is something I’ve never seen before.

That’s not to say the work is fully original. Rodriguez-Warner makes his art by combining a multitude of images from other artists’ toolboxes — what appears to be a snippet of Matisse here, a hint of Picasso there, perhaps something grabbed from a comic, or a sample from a traditional Japanese print. The exact references are vague; it may not be actual Gauguin or Manet or Géricault or Walt Disney soundbites that Rodriguez-Warner employs, but that’s what viewers may believe they see at “Honestly Lying.”



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