

Content Review

Vincent Valdez: Just A Dream...

On view | November 15, 2024–March 23, 2025



Vincent Valdez, *So Long, Mary Ann*, 2019, Oil on canvas. Private Collection, Chicago

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This content review is designed to communicate accessibility and powerful subject matters within this exhibition.

Vincent Valdez: Just a Dream... surveys 25 years of work from Texas-born artist Vincent Valdez. Presenting an American epic spanning both of Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH)'s main-level and lower-level galleries, the exhibition addresses the failings and triumphs of contemporary American society, with a reverential focus on collective memory and overlooked political histories. Specific artworks in the exhibition to be aware of include:

- ***The Strangest Fruit (2013)*** references lynching of Black and Brown people
- ***Excerpts for John (2012)*** references Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), suicide, and grief
- ***Expulsion from the Great City (2002)*** depicts male and female nudity
- ***The Beginning is Near (An American Trilogy), Chapter One: The City (2015-16)*** depicts the Ku Klux Klan
- ***Kill the Pachuco Bastard! (2001)*** depicts blood, gore, racial and sexual violence.
- The series, ***The Hole (In Memory) (2024)*** is in reference to José (Joe) Campos Torres, who was murdered and brutalized by Houston Police Department



Vincent Valdez, *People of the Sun (Grandma & Grandpa Santana)*, 2019, Oil on canvas. Collection of Alexa Pooter Brundage, San Antonio, Texas

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Accessibility

- **Seating:** Benches are available throughout the exhibition on both the main-level and lower-levels, and a drawing room is available in the lower-level gallery to sit with texts related to the exhibition and to look through the artist's flat files of drawings.
- **Language/Vision:** this exhibition offers bilingual Spanish-English text material and a Spanish-English audio guide, where over 15 art historians, community members, and activists comment with the artist about under told stories related to Valdez's work. The audio guide can be accessed via a QR code in the gallery, on the exhibition pamphlet, and through a link on CAMH.ORG.
- **Mobility:** an elevator to access both galleries exhibiting *Vincent Valdez: Just a Dream...* can be entered through the main-level gallery. (Gender-inclusive) restrooms are in the lower-level gallery.
- **Sensory:** Sound elements are present in the pieces *El Chavez Ravine (2005-07)*, *Home (2012)*, and *Just a Dream...* (2020-21). The drawing room is dimly lit.
- **Financial:** CAMH and its programs are always free.

Please note that none of the artworks in the exhibition can be touched, including the contents of the flat-file cabinets in the study room. However, you are invited to open the draws to explore the artist archive. Please be aware of artwork on the floor in front of the painting *Eaten (2018-19)*, and mindful of your movement throughout the space. We always encourage close looking and curiosity.

About Vincent Valdez

At age 10, Vincent Valdez began painting murals in his hometown of San Antonio. Now, living between Houston and Los Angeles, he is recognized as one of the most important American painters of today. Though celebrated for his monumental figurative paintings, mediums such as a vintage ice cream truck, drawings, video, prints, and bronze inform the breadth of his practice: bearing witness across history, material, and scale to deliver emotionally complex testimonies of American injustice, and tracing the absences in American memory.

For additional information, please contact tours@camh.org.

Vincent Valdez: Just a Dream... is co-organized by Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH) and Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA). The exhibition is co-curated by Patricia Restrepo, Curator at CAMH, and Denise Markonish, Chief Curator at MASS MoCA.