



## PRESS RELEASE

### Edison Peñafiel's "Land Escape"

South Florida Award winning artist, Edison Peñafiel, presents *Land Escape* at Piero Atchugarry Gallery, as part of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation's Knight Arts Challenge.

*Land Escape* includes a collection of Edison Peñafiel's most recent works produced as a catalyst for conversation and reflection on migration issues.

EXHIBITION DATE: September 16 – November 14, 2020

PLACE: Piero Atchugarry Gallery

5520 NE 4th Avenue, Miami, FL 33137

Piero Atchugarry Gallery is pleased to announce *Land Escape*, a solo exhibition by Edison Peñafiel, a 2019 award winner of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation's Grant as part of its Knight Arts Challenge. Positioned in an immersive approach, the exhibition seeks to open up a dialogue about immigration, its substructures and development. The Knight Arts Challenge funds the best ideas for engaging and enriching Miami through the arts. Promoting informed and engaged communities, the Knight Foundation upholds the belief that providing people with information is essential, as such it seeks to fund projects in the arts that lead to transformational, sustainable change.

The exhibition features new works, including a collection of 10 large format mixed-media compositions on canvas, alongside a multichannel video installation. A piercing play on words, *Land Escape* introduces viewers to larger than life muted and masked characters navigating the confines of their vibrant backdrops. Hung all around the walls and fenced in by a literal barrier of barbed wire, viewers approach these portraits as outsiders, traversing the same colored plains—the forbidding partition making even more evident the separation between the viewers and the displaced characters. Also on view, a seemingly eternal timeline of travelers in black and white is presented in a triptych video installation that references early French cinema and German Expressionism. Informed by Peñafiel's personal migration history, forced to leave his native country due to its political and economic instability, *Land Escape* punctuates his continued concern in the complex and ever growing migrant narrative in the hope that it becomes a catalyst for reflection and dialogue.

Edison Peñafiel (b.1985, Ecuador) is a South Florida based artist. Peñafiel received a BFA in Interdisciplinary Arts and Art History at Florida International University. He has presented his work in numerous large scale projects, site-specific installations, and immersive installations, appearing at the

Bass Museum, the Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami, the Orlando Museum of Art, the Elsewhere Museum, the Atlantic Center for the Arts, and the Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale. Notable awards include: the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Grant, the Florida Prize in Contemporary Art, and the South Florida Cultural Consortium Fellowship.

In December 2018, with a space established in Garzón, Uruguay, Piero Atchugarry expanded his program to North America to a warehouse in Miami's renowned Design District neighborhood. A 9,000-square foot art space, the Piero Atchugarry Gallery is committed to supporting and presenting the work of local and international artists with an institutional approach.

Knight Foundation is a national foundation with strong local roots. They invest in journalism, in the arts, and in the success of cities where brothers John S. and James L. Knight once published newspapers. Their goal is to foster informed and engaged communities, which they believe are essential for a healthy democracy. For more, visit [KF.org](http://KF.org).

The public opening week of *Land Escape* will take place Wednesday, Sept. 16th through Saturday, Sept. 19th at the Piero Atchugarry Gallery. The opening is free and open to the public, with tours available on the hour, from 11am to 3pm.

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For more information, high resolution images, and to arrange an interview with Edison Peñafiel or Piero Atchugarry, please contact [bmcghee@pieroatchugarry.com](mailto:bmcghee@pieroatchugarry.com) or at (786) 3904725.

Visit the Piero Atchugarry Gallery at

<http://www.pieroatchugarry.com/>

The Piero Atchugarry Gallery is located at 5520 NE 4th Avenue, Miami FL 33137.

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