



School: Bath School of Art

Researcher: Dexter Dalwood

Project Title: An Inadequate Painted History of Mexico

UOA: D32 Art and Design - History, Practice and Theory

300-Word Statement

Solo Show CaSa (Centro de las Artes de San Agustín), San Agustín Etla, Oaxaca - Postponed due to Covid-19 now opening 5th June 2021 – 11th September 2021; Solo Exhibition, MUNAL, (Museo Nacional de Arte) Mexico City - Postponed due to Covid-19 now opening 23 September – January 30th 2022.

Dalwood's research is based on an exploration of the question 'What is the history in contemporary History Painting?' He was invited to a residency in Mexico in 2017,(for which he was awarded a Santander Pioneer award), to work with the local community in Oaxaca state and secondary school pupils on a 'History Painting' project. The residency raised questions around how the narratives of colonial history had used imagery to portray both a romanticized and brutalized vision of the past, leading to a re think some of that existing imagery and challenge it in through the making a collaborative large scale painting that both referenced the Mexican muralists and yet re vamped the idea of it for the 21st century.

Following this collaboration, Dalwood began a series of his own carefully constructed paintings engaging with these questions around the cultural ownership and authorship of depicted histories within the contexts of History Painting. Out of the development of this series of over 16 paintings a two year dialogue with the Mexico City based curator Francisco Berzunga took place which culminated in the Director of MUNAL offering Dalwood a solo exhibition and inviting him to also select existing images in their 19th century collection to create dialogues around the issues raised. The exhibition will now commence at CaSa in June 2021 and travel to MUNAL in September 2021. The project has required nearly three years of research and studio practice and the exhibitions are to be supported by the British Council in Mexico City.