

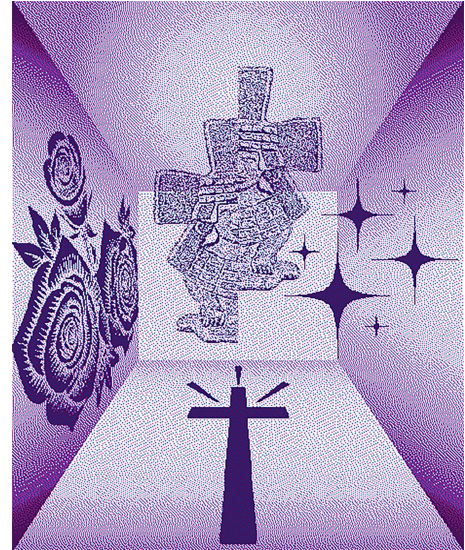
# it was only a dream

New works by Edgar Reyes

On view May 18 through June 22, 2024

Artist reception Saturday, May 25, 2024, 5–7pm

1353 U St NW, Washington, DC 20009



Edgar Reyes, *Ponte Trucha*, 2024.  
Courtesy of Hamiltonian Artists

**Washington, DC:** Hamiltonian Artists is pleased to present Edgar Reyes's solo exhibition *It Was Only a Dream*. Inspired by his experience growing up undocumented in the Washington, DC, area (locally referred to as the DMV) amid the sensationalization of organized crime in the early 2000s, Reyes's new body of work teases at the blurred lines between Chicano masculinity, criminality, and cultural identity.

Abstracting images from his family archive and layering them with found Chicano relics, Reyes invites viewers into a geometric, pixelated dreamscape reminiscent of his boyhood. Through sculpture, installation, and prints on fabric, Reyes renders the complicated beauty of Mexican American identity and ideals, interrogating the conditions that have come to define them.

Situated in the haze of memory and media, *It Was Only a Dream* reflects the ways in which projection can warp perceptions and how nostalgia can distort the past.

**An artist-led exhibition walkthrough will be held on Saturday, June 8, 3pm. Link to register [here](#).** Visit Hamiltonian Artists' [website](#) and follow [@hamiltonian\\_artists](#) on Instagram for more information.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Edgar Reyes (b. Guadalajara, Mexico) is a multimedia artist and educator based in Baltimore, MD, and the Washington, DC, area. Reyes's work invites viewers to think about the people, places, and connections they carry with them. His practice draws on the specifics of his own life, and reflections of shared experiences of resettlement and migration. Through his art making he explores his family's Mexican and Indigenous roots.

Reyes earned his MFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD, and has taught at nonprofit organizations, schools, universities, and museums. His work has been prominently featured in large-scale public installations, including *Sueños* (2017), a two-part piece featuring a monumental light box and banners, displayed during Light City Baltimore, and *Xochitl* (2021), vivid, abstract patterns installed in shop windows in Rockville, MD, as part of VisArts' Make It Visible project.

Recent honors include being a Janet & Walter Sondheim Art Prize semifinalist (2024, 2021), Rubys Artist Grant recipient (2021), Keyholder Resident Artist at Pyramid Atlantic Art Center (2021), and Bresler Resident Artist at VisArts (2021). Reyes is a 2022–2024 Hamiltonian Artists fellow.



### ABOUT HAMILTONIAN ARTISTS

Hamiltonian Artists' mission is to build a dynamic community of innovative artists and effective visual art leaders by providing professional development opportunities to early-career artists and by advancing their entrepreneurial success. In 2007, Paul So, an avid painter and a physics professor at George Mason University, founded Hamiltonian Artists and Hamiltonian Gallery with the vision of creating an innovative career incubator program for emerging visual artists. In 2019, the Board of Directors of Hamiltonian Artists chose to merge the two organizations into a single 501c3 nonprofit to better serve the mission.

Today, Hamiltonian Artists is a dynamic catalyst for DC's creative economy and a vibrant center for contemporary art in Washington, DC. Through its unique investment into the next generation of cutting-edge artists, Hamiltonian helps artists to develop important business skills, professional experiences, and visibility to support and sustain their art career. Through a two-year artist fellowship, artist talks, public events and its membership program, the organization contributes to the vitality of DC's burgeoning arts scene by deepening the appreciation for contemporary art and culture throughout Washington, DC, and beyond.

### VISIT

Location: Hamiltonian Artists, 1353 U Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

Hours: Thursday–Saturday, 11am–6pm

For more information visit [ha-dc.org](http://ha-dc.org).

### CONTACT

For press inquiries and additional info, contact Anisa Olufemi, fellowship manager:  
[anisa@hamiltonianartists.org](mailto:anisa@hamiltonianartists.org).

[Link to press images](#)