

Adrian Esparza Transforms Mexican Serape Blankets Into Intricate Geometric Thread Installations

By Jené Guterrez



Texas-based artist Adrian Esparza uses nails and the thread from Mexican sarape blankets to weave colorful geometric patterns. Growing up in El Paso, Esparza encountered these blankets on a daily basis. Using his background as a painter, Esparza observed that the blankets contained painterly qualities that he sought to deconstruct. The result is an unraveling of a Mexican cultural symbol into a new form, a multi-dimensional landscape of color and shape. Esparza's deconstruction and transformation of this cultural symbol reflects the displacement of identity that many Mexican-Americans experience as a result of migration. The wall pieces Esparza constructs from the serapes, though completely transformed, recall macramé and other handcrafts from the artist's culture. Through his work, Esparza reinvents the ordinary and asks the viewer to embrace the potential for creative transformation that can be found in the familiar and the mundane.

Esparza's work - titled "Wake and Wonder" - will be on view at Pérez Art Museum Miami as part of the exhibition, "Americana: Formalizing Craft," until May 2015.