



Press Release
For Immediate Release
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Benito Rangel de Maria: *Navigating Boundaries* at Zener Schon Contemporary Art

Zener Schon Contemporary Art, Mill Valley, presents *Navigating Boundaries*, an exhibition of works on paper and mixed media by San Francisco Bay Area artist Benito Rangel de Maria. The exhibition runs from February 3 – 28, 2015. A reception for the artist will take place on Thursday, February 12 from 6-8pm.

Navigating Boundaries refers to the act of mark making, construction and deconstruction, not only with varied media, but also with notions of physical and social boundaries. Rangel de Maria's work examines the physical qualities of who we are, who we want to be, and how we want to be perceived. By applying alternating layers of acrylic and watercolor while simultaneously working with stickers and tape, initially placed, then painted on, then removed, the artist invites viewers into a world constructed with intention. This reveals a system of symbols that brand and reflect our desire to distinguish ourselves individually, yet be part of a larger group. By creating works that juxtapose our similarities and differences, Rangel de Maria encourages the viewer to see beyond the limitations of the physical.

New to the artist's oeuvre are his *Blaze* series pieces, inspired by "blazing," the historic practice of marking routes through the wilderness. These works on paper utilize markings as navigational tools that aid and show direction. Comprised of Rangel de Maria's signature crosses, circles and bands, these markings, or "blazes", encourage further exploration, intersecting boldly in undefined environments that pave new paths. This series is a natural progression to his *Tribe* series, which focuses on the marking of the individual, which is also featured in this exhibition.

From a young age, Benito Rangel de Maria was set on a path that interwove disparate cultural and geographical boundaries. While he was born in Michoacán, Mexico in 1970, it was his early years in Chicago, studies in Paris and Madrid, and residency at The Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice that ultimately influenced his outlook on the world. His work has been featured at a group exhibition at the Palm Springs Art Museum, recognized by art critic Alan Bamberger of ArtBusiness.com, and recently selected by Betti-Sue Hertz, Director of Visual Arts at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, for an exhibition at the Marin Museum of Contemporary Art.

Benito Rangel de Maria is currently based out of San Francisco.

Zener Schon Contemporary Art is founded by gallery owners, Julie Zener and Tara Schon. Zener and Schon recently opened their new gallery in Mill Valley, CA featuring cutting-edge artwork of emerging and established artists. Please visit www.zenerschongallery.com for more information.