

LUIS DE JESUS LOS ANGELES

1110 Mateo Street, Los Angeles CA 90021
213 395 0762 | gallery@luisdejesus.com
luisdejesus.com



The featured image at the top of this week's newsletter is the painting "Ritual," 2025, by Hugo Crosthwaite, courtesy of Luis De Jesus Los Angeles.

Three's Company

It seemed like every LA gallery opened a new show during the art fairs late last month — and I'm just catching up. This week I saw three exhibitions that wowed, delighted, and perplexed me.

HUGO CROSTHWAITE at LUIS DE JESUS LOS ANGELES (DTLA)



Hugo Crosthwaite, "La Línea (The Line)," 2024. (Hugo Crosthwaite / Luis De Jesus Los Angeles)

LUIS DE JESUS LOS ANGELES

1110 Mateo Street, Los Angeles CA 90021
213 395 0762 | gallery@luisdejesus.com
luisdejesus.com

In some ways, the art of Tijuana-born painter Hugo Crosthwaite couldn't be more germane to the realities of his border city. In his canvases, buildings rise improvisationally on sloping hillsides, and a street vendor chats on her cell phone next to her food stall. But in Crosthwaite's hands, the mundane is always accompanied by the fantastic.

In his large-scale painting "La Línea (The Line)," from 2024 — a phrase used to describe the queue to cross the border, as well as the border itself — you'll find a row of people standing in line. Except one figure bears a mask-like jaguar head and a puppet's body. Another has a hand that is aflame as she carries a Catholic icon known as the *anima sola* or *anima bendita*, which shows a chained figure engulfed by fire. Also present: Coatlicue, the Aztec deity of life and death, whose face is composed of two snakes. She couldn't be a better symbol for the US-Mexico border region: a single body formed out of two beings.

Crosthwaite's show takes inspiration from *ex votos*, religious paintings that give thanks for a miracle. But the artist offers a contemporary take on the form, incorporating Mickey Mouse, Coca-Cola, and knife-wielding spirits. The show also marks an important artistic transition. For years, Crosthwaite has presented his work in black and white; in this series, however, he goes full bore color — and the effect is captivating.

Hugo Crosthwaite, Ex-voto is on view at Luis De Jesus Los Angeles through April 5th