

LATCHKEY GALLERY
MARCH + APRIL 2023

**THERE
IS
NO
GOD
AND
WE
ARE
HIS
PROPHETS**

ESTEBAN WHITESIDE | JOHN B. GUINAN

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March 01 - April 23, 2023

LatchKey Gallery
New York, NY



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Installation view of John B. Guinan's
Camo Cross, 2023
Sewn sleeping bags on stretched canvas
60 x 48 in
Survivor Prie Dieu, 2023
Found prie dieu, upholstered sleeping bag, machetes and wood brackets
36 x 20 x 24 in



ESTEBAN WHITESIDE



Estéban Whiteside is a self-taught artist living in Washington, DC. His hard truths through childlike, reductive forms reveal the difficult realities of American society. Boldly colored, these paintings initially allow for an aesthetically playful escape however, upon further investigation reveal a sharp and critical insight of today's world. This juxtaposition, what Whiteside refers to as Concrete Oppressionism, removes any room for interpretation. Concrete Oppressionism targets topics and their subjects to reveal the absurdity of American culture.

JOHN B. GUINAN



John Brendan Guinan is an interdisciplinary artist based in Brooklyn, NY. His practice includes collage, assemblage, textile, ready-mades, and soft sculpture. Guinan's work examines concepts related to class, shelter, displacement, ritual and the sacred through the reframing of found objects and materials. Threaded throughout his oeuvre are references to venerated objects and the merging of high and low-brow materials - sleeping bags, bungee cords, tents, priest chasubles, crosses, prayer cards, ratchet straps, tarp, waxed cotton, gaberdine, pima cotton, and leather among others.

Guinan's art practice is rooted in his lived experience - raised in the Catholic Worker tradition emphasizing pacifism, personalism, and Anarchism - along with years of working with conflict-affected and marginalized communities. He was born at home in the Logan Circle neighborhood of inner-city Washington, DC above the homeless shelter and soup kitchen; founded and run by his parents. His father, a former Catholic Priest and well-known activist and author, J. Edward Guinan (Dec. 2015) was a stalwart in the social justice movement and founder of Community for Creative Non-Violence. Guinan has participated in both solo and group shows in New York, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., Richmond, and Miami. He was the subject of 'Why I Paint', a documentary produced by Academy Award winning Fine Films in 2018.

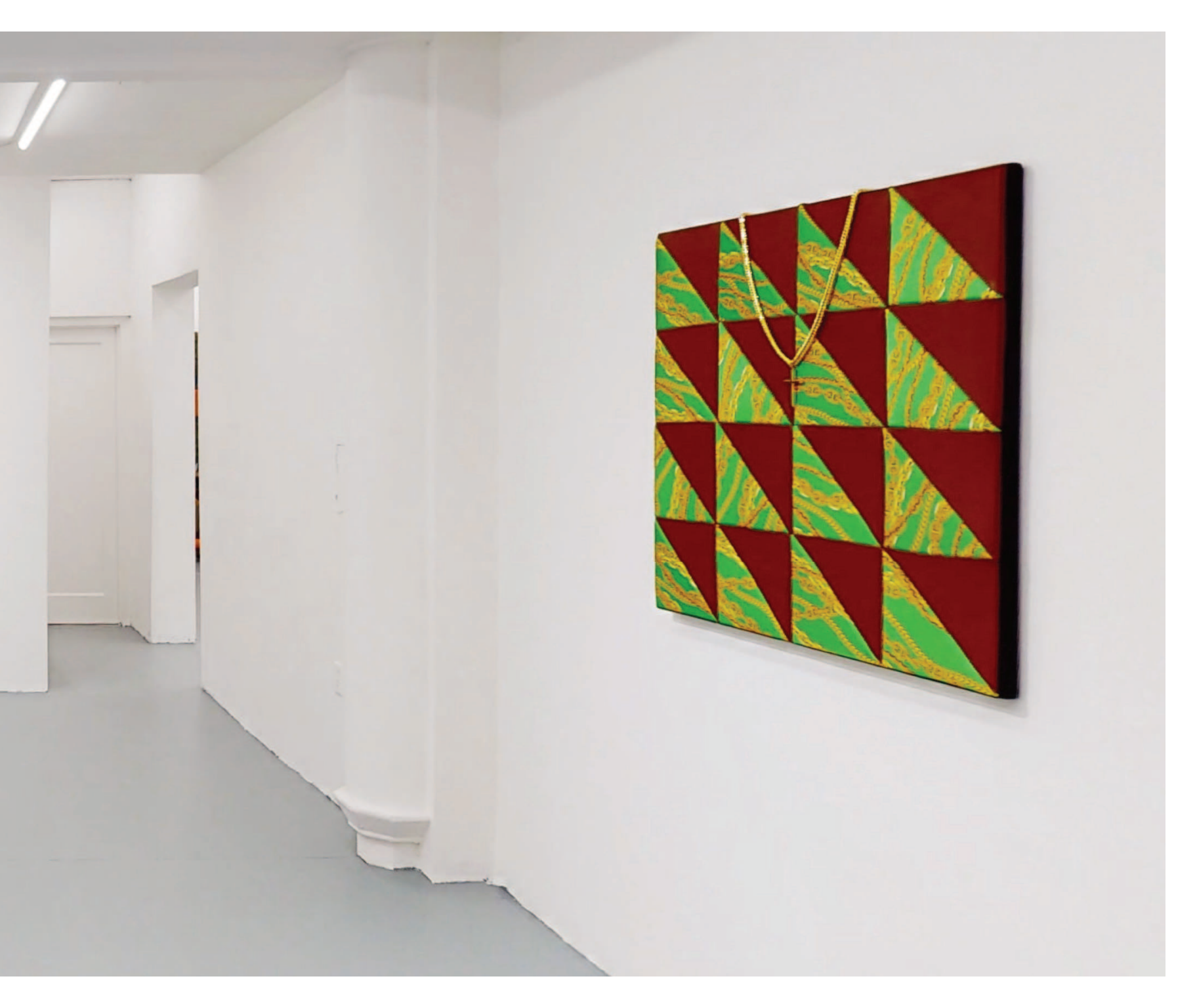
Latchkey Gallery is pleased to present, *There is no God and we are his prophets*, a two-person exhibition of new artworks by John Brendan Guinan and Esteban Whiteside. *There is no God and we are his prophets* casts a heightened shadow of an imagined state established by current systems. *There is no God and we are his prophets*, originates from Cormac McCarthy's post-apocalyptic book, *The Road* which informs the theme of the exhibition.

Guinan and Whiteside's complex reflections give a harrowing vision of a world directed by godly fanaticism. Through painting, sculpture, and abstract textile works, each artist reflects on the fragility of human civilization ruled by a dominant few. Veiled within this dystopian world are comments of our current systems, their discrepancies, manipulations, and hypocrisies. At the center of the gallery is an installation by Guinan. *Camo Cross* and *Survivor Prie Dieu*, introduces recognizable symbols now manipulated and repurposed to execute a new world order. Constructed from found utilitarian materials as well as high-end designer fabrics - such as Montcler, Balenciaga and Gucci, *Camo Cross* is a symbol of militarization of this new religion. *Save Us*, a collaborative piece by the artists, fuses the geometric textile of Guinan with the reductive style of Whiteside. A textiled grid representing an aerial landscape of a fictitious refugee camp contains Whiteside's Brut style symbols which can be found throughout the exhibition.

The aesthetically playful but sharp witted artworks by Whiteside target topics and subjects that reveal the absurdity of American culture. *Market is Up*, a painting masked in the colors of patriotism, quotes a bull market: the ever increasing sign of wealth and prosperity. Within Whiteside's *Big Board*, an image of a man reaching into the garbage looks forward, his shirt soiled and hair overgrown calling attention to the immense disparity and callous indifference between citizens.

There is no God and we are his prophets is a visual prophecy of society's quest for truth while shrouded in fear. It is both outlandish and a message of warning.





MARKET IS UP

DOW JONES + 300.43

S&P 500 + 101.31 

AAPL + 3.53

BA + 1.22

DIS + 1.24

BRK-B + .99



GE + 1.06

NASDAQ + 198.62

Esteban Whiteside

Market is up #2, 2023
Esteban Whiteside
Acrylic & wood mounted on wood
30 x 30 in.



Heaven, 2023
Esteban Whiteside
Acrylic & wood mounted on wood
18 x 18 in.



Hell, 2019
Esteban Whiteside
Acrylic & crayon on wood, mounted
12 x 12 in.



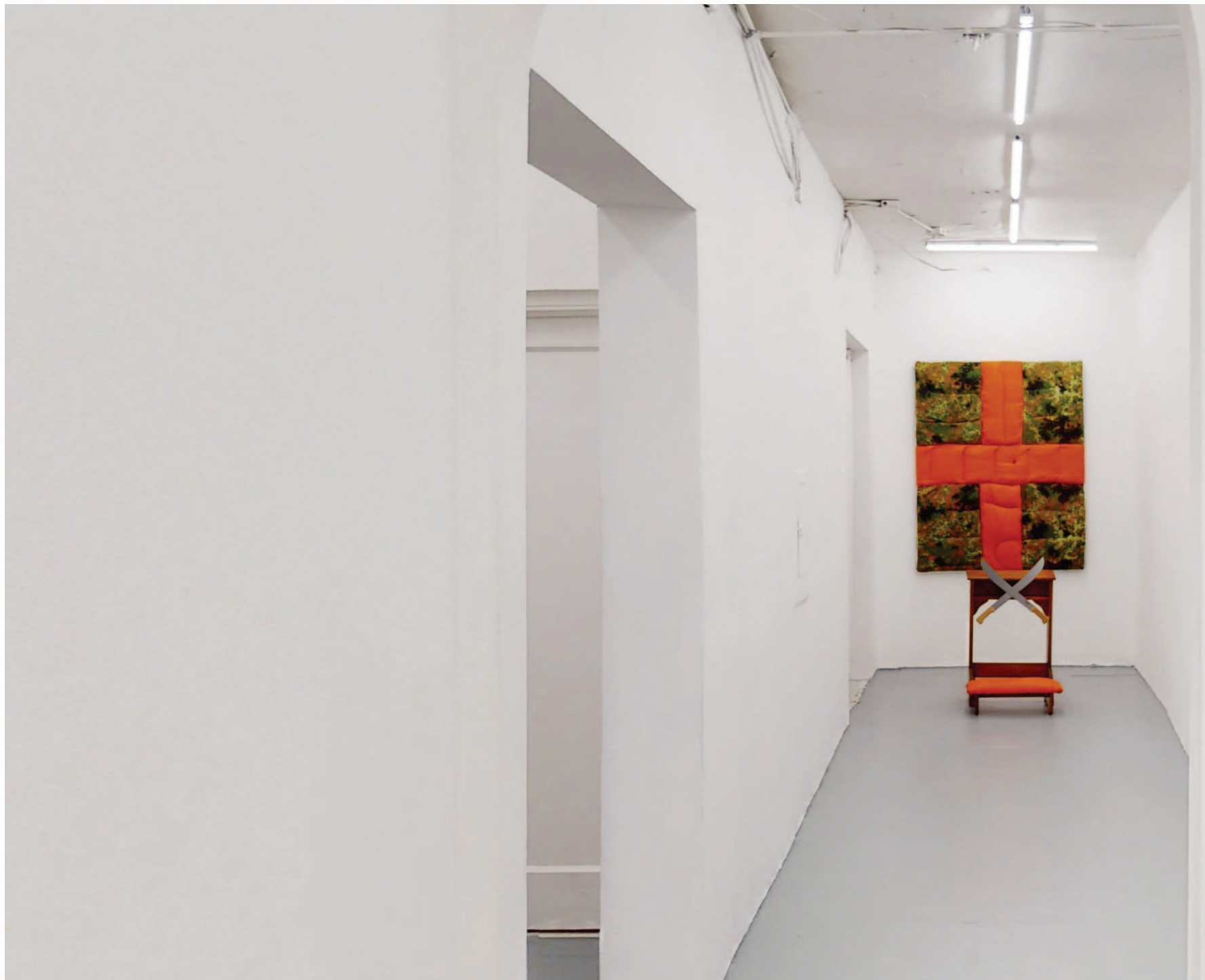
Last Supper, 2023
Esteban Whiteside
Acrylic & wood mounted on wood
36 x 48 in.

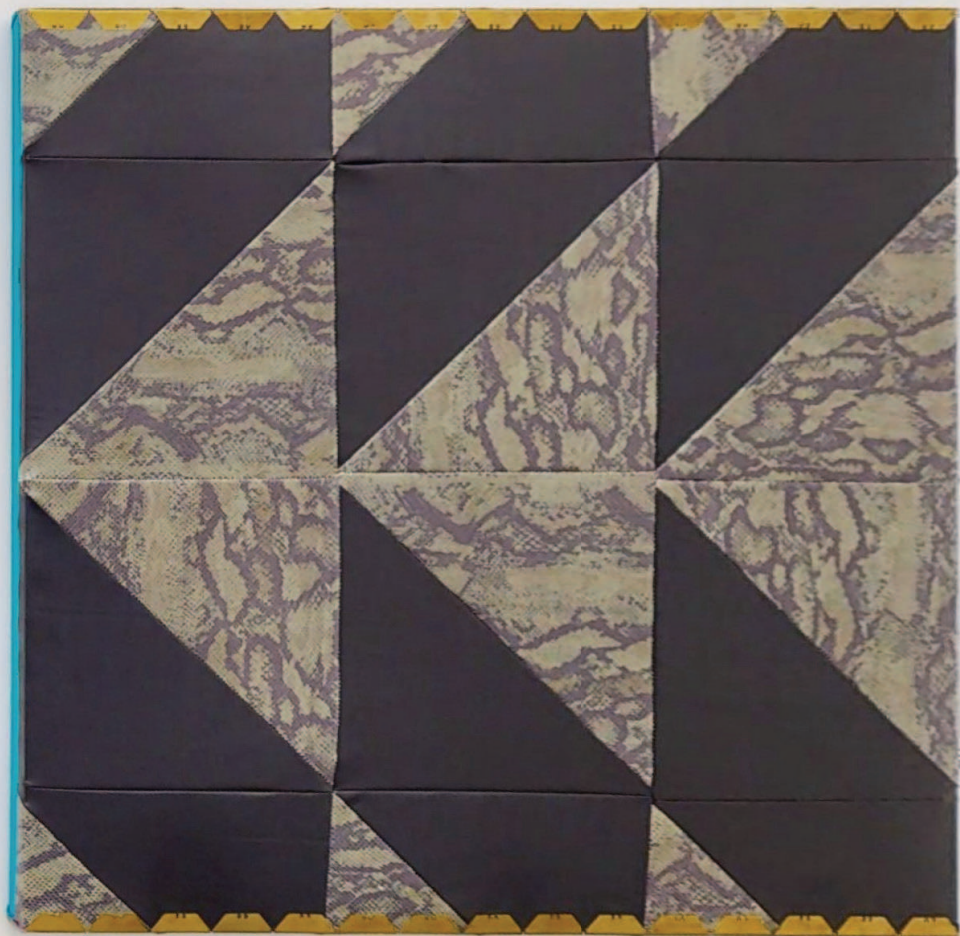


Jesus vs Satan, 2023
Esteban Whiteside
Acrylic and wood mounted on wood
30 x 30 in.



All Pigs Go To Hell, 2023
Esteban Whiteside
Acrylic and wood mounted on wood
18 x 18 in.







Kill and eat, 2023
John B. Guinan
Moncler nylon, 18k gold grill and stainless steel cuban
link chain on stretched canvas
16 x 12 in.



Warlord
John B. Guinan
Sewn Balenciaga foam textile, vegan leather, 18k gold chain and cross, and vinyl on stretched canvas
36 x 36 in.



Snake mouth, 2023
John B. Guinan
Sewn vegan leather, snakeskin vinyl, spandex and razor blades on stretched canvas
36 x 36 in.



Warlord tactical vest, 2023

John B. Guinan

Sewn sleeping bag, steel hooks, nylon, snake skin vinyl,
rubber, velcro, bungee cord, stainless steel cuban link chain,
and rhinestones
22 x 18 x 12 in.



Salvation camp, 2023

John B. Guinan

Sewn found tarp, vintage military canvas tent, vinyl, ratchet straps, bungee cord and sleeping bag on stretched canvas
60 x 72 in.



Savior Priest Mask, 2023
John B. Guinan
Sewn Catholic priest chasuble, tarp, bungee cord, used sail, duct tape, and
moving blanket
28 x 16 x 4 in.



Keeper Priest Mask, 2023

John B. Guinan

Sewn tarp, priest vestments, bungee cords, Balenciaga, faux fur, used sail, grommets, ratchet strap, football visor, rhinestones, cord and beads

24 x 14 x 6 in.



King Priest Mask, 2023
John B. Guinan
Sewn tarp, priest chasuble, bungee cords,
Balenciaga faux fur, used sail, grommets, ratchet strap,
football visor, and rhinestones
26 x 12 x 6½ in.







SAVE US, John Brendan Guinan & Esteban Whiteside, 2023
Sewn found tarp, dacron, grommets, rope, vintage military canvas tent,
waxed cotton, vinyl and acrylic on stretched canvas
36 x 36 in.



KEEP

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