



IN BETWiN: Stories of Immigrants

Sergio Jaua

4 December 2023—26 January 2024 in UNIT 115

IN BETWiN is an exhibition of portraits depicting individuals from various nationalities residing in Kingston. The paintings included in this exhibition were created as part of an ongoing portrait project by Venezuelan emerging artist Sergio Jaua. Through this project, Sergio interviews Kingstonians who have immigrated to Canada, learning about their journeys and developing individual portraits inspired by their stories.

The exhibition explores the concept of “in-betweenness,” as described by Jaua: It’s like finding a new place to rewrite our history, while that new place welcomes us as members with our talents and imperfections. It’s the feeling of being at home in a new land, or where our hearts have always been. It’s about being present here and there.

IN BETWiN showcases stories of immigrants from Kingston, with diverse backgrounds and unique stories, through their portraits. The project seeks to open conversations by

highlighting cultural diversity and individuality, while building community and fostering interpersonal connections.

Sergio Jaua was born and raised in Venezuela, a country that welcomed a large number of immigrants during the last century but is currently experiencing an abundance of emigration. Growing up, Sergio was surrounded by people from different parts of the world, and developed a deep appreciation for the value of multiculturalism. Sergio's identity has been shaped by his upbringing, and his work is informed by both his identity as a descendant of immigrants, and his exploration of multiculturalism in Canada.

Through this project, Sergio has found the opportunity to delve into his personal history, review the stories of his ancestors, and view their lives from a new perspective. He has also had the opportunity to build connections with immigrants in Kingston, learning of their varied journeys and developing portraits inspired by these personal histories.

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