



tube\_rald, 2015. © Amanda Valdez. Photo: courtesy Denny Gallery

CHECKLIST  
Clockwise, starting left upon entrance

Temple, 2016  
Fabric and canvas  
16 x 16 in/41 x 41 cm

tower valley, 2015  
Embroidery, gouache, acrylic, and fabric  
12 x 12 in/30 x 30 cm

pink moon, 2010  
Embroidery, fabric, and canvas  
46 x 40 inches

Ripe Appeal, 2014  
Fabric, gouache, acrylic, and canvas  
48 x 60 in/122 x 152 cm

Ivory You, 2014  
Embroidery, acrylic, and canvas  
30 x 26 in/76 x 66 cm

untitled (pink middle), 2009  
Fabric and canvas  
22 x 20 inches

dream your face off, 2015  
Embroidery, acrylic, and gouache on canvas  
32 x 29.5 in/81 x 75 cm

crackerjack, 2016  
Embroidery, fabric, acrylic, and canvas  
60 x 58 in/152 x 147 cm

Big Might, 2016  
Embroidery, gouache, acrylic, and canvas  
26 x 22 in/66 x 56 cm

All on loan from Denny Gallery

The ROTHERWAS PROJECT is a biannual exhibition series that features artworks by contemporary artists from around the globe in the Mead's historic oak-paneled room. Creating an installation in situ, living artists will plumb the incongruous notions of time already present in this provocative space, which was originally built for a Court in Herefordshire, England. Commissioned in the early 1600s by English knight Sir Roger Bodenham, finished in 1611, dismantled in 1731, and shipped to a Fifth Avenue showroom in 1913, the Rotherwas Room made its way to Amherst thanks to the generosity of Herbert Lee Pratt, Class of 1895. Construction of the Mead in 1949 was designed to accommodate this dramatic architectural installation from another time.



# ROTHERWAS PROJECT



Ripe Appeal, 2014. © Amanda Valdez. Photo: courtesy Denny Gallery

No. 1 **Amanda Valdez** Ladies' Night

FALL 2016



dream.your.face.off. 2015 © Amanda Valdez. Photo: courtesy Denny Gallery

Rotherwas Project 1 features artist **AMANDA VALDEZ**, whose work upends the conventions of painting and stretched canvas on a frame to explore the medium and contemporary subjects in new ways. Emphasizing handmade techniques and fabric materials associated with feminism, **VALDEZ** draws on a visual iconography and palette that have non-Western associations.

Born in Seattle in 1982, Amanda Valdez received her BFA at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and MFA from Hunter College in New York. The recipient of many grants, fellowships, and artist residencies, Valdez now lives and works in Brooklyn.

# Amanda Valdez

## Ladies' Night

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ROTHERWAS  
PROJECT

No. 1

I'M INSPIRED BY HISTORY, through and through. It's the biggest inspiration for my travel, artistic research, and general faith in humans' ability to create. As a maker, I see so much of history as the story of what people have made with their hands. My

imagination becomes activated thinking about the person making a vessel 1,300 years ago, or those capturing ancient fertility symbols in stone, or the way a process like weaving can permeate history and tell the story of so many lives and innovations.

I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT PODCASTS, Chap Stick, water, nature, my family, and a good dance party.

MUSEUMS HAVE HAD AN IMPACT ON THE WAY I EDUCATE MYSELF. They are a depository for the world. You can experience not just our current world over, but through time what the people before us cared about, believed in, loved, lamented, nurtured, and problem solved. As an artist my points of interests often shift, and over the years I find myself in different areas of the museums. From Japanese armor, to Islamic patterning, to textile and fiber arts, to Greek and Roman ancient objects. The museums are always there to educate me.

I LOVE WHEN PEOPLE RESPOND TO MY ARTWORK by moving their body. I have been able to witness people's reactions without them knowing I was the artist, and sometimes they start to do weird things with their body. They lean, nudge to one side, bend over, go straight up to the surface of the painting, their shoulders crawl up to their ears, all kinds of bizarre things.

BEST ADVICE I EVER GOT was when I was leaving undergrad one of my favorite professors, Mark Pascale, gave me a copy of John Cage's "10 Rules for Students and Teachers" and told me to put it on the wall of my grad school studio. So I did it. I still return to it and find it revitalizing! Rule 7 is everything to me, and all the Helpful Hints at the bottom. Look it up!

OUTSIDE OF MY CLASSES IN COLLEGE I LEARNED how to take care of myself physically

and intellectually. I went to school in Chicago, and at the time the city was very focused on sustainability, so through that lens I was exposed to so many ideas and concepts. I learned about nutrition and yoga. I began to subscribe to content that would expand my points of reference (Smithsonian Magazine, Vanity Fair, New York Times, Harper's, Art Forum). I covered a lot of bases apart from the arts education. My favorite way of evaluating this is by examining the contents of my fridge before and after Chicago, while a little embarrassing ... When I moved to Chicago I went grocery shopping to stock my kitchen and there was a sale on Hot Pockets, 10 for \$10, so ... I got 10. My friend who was with me, and my mom, asked me if I really wanted to get that many, and I did! I'm laughing as I write this, because—no offense to those who love them, and I get it—but they're so heinous for your body. If you opened my fridge four years later you would find salmon, brown rice, flaxseed oil, frozen fruit, Maca powder, spirulina, etc. It's not by virtue that it changed, it was simply exposure to new ideas.

FAVORITE APP AT THE MOMENT is my bitmoji app! I know I'm late to the game, but I'm so addicted to the ridiculous rainbow bee version of myself.

MY GUILTY PLEASURE RIGHT NOW IS BASKETBALL. I'm lucky I have a partner that has brought me back around to an early love. (#DreamTeam) I enjoy watching the games, listening to different podcasts devoted to the game (Jalen & Jacoby, Bill Simmons' podcast network The Ringer's NBA Basketball), and playing. Right outside our front door are courts, so I've been incorporating "basketball training" into my physical routine. It's pretty hilarious.

SO MUCH OF MY DRAWING PRACTICE is centered around the embodied knowledge and experiences contained in my own body. When I'm watching games I get to see all these insanely beautiful things done with the body that then gets burned into some part of my own consciousness. Seeing half of LeBron's body driving into the air toward the basket while the other half is careening off to the side all while he is jumping inspires me. I recently made a drawing that I know is somehow inspired by Carmelo Anthony. He wears this padding around his tummy that fascinates me in how it breaks up the shapes of his body. The lengthiness of Kevin Durant's limbs, it's like watching a graceful slim giant.