

ART

## In the galleries: Retrospective explodes with color, feeling and humor

Also: Works by seven artists based in or linked to Latin America delve into the issue of migration, and a visual artist of European and African descent explores concepts of cultural and environmental disruption.



Review by Mark Jenkins

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## Contemporary Dilemmas: Eternal Displacements

The most famous Hokusai view of Mt. Fuji — the one where the peak is distant and framed by a cresting wave — has been imitated so many times that it seems about as novel as a Warhol soup can. Colombian artist Santiago Vélez gives the wave a fresh swell by digitally printing the borrowed image on a mylar thermal blanket of the sort given to shivering refugees. This evocation of watery peril is one of several Vélez pieces, all incorporating such blankets, in the RoFA Art Gallery show “Contemporary Dilemmas: Eternal Displacements.”

The gallery specializes in work by artists based in or linked to Latin America, but this exhibit addresses the plights of migrants worldwide. Of the seven participants, all but one was born in Mexico or Central America. The exception is Morocco native Houda Terjuman, the daughter of Syrian and Swiss parents. Her bold, surrealistic paintings often depict houses, chairs and trees moored to chunks of land that appear to float in midair. The most potent of these pictures have backdrops so red that they appear to scream of the violence of dislocation.

