

# Revolution(ary) still LIVES

Two Coded Biographies

Treat Us to a Fusion-Style Banquet

Curated by William Norton

Like eating “Kor-ican Stew” at Chicago’s Urbanbelly Restaurant, this exhibition is a fusion of cultural visions for the well-educated and adventurous palate. A spicy blending of American “thrift store–style paintings” and Korean *Minhwa*, these two traditions intersect when **Al Rodriguez** and **Stephanie S. Lee** sumptuously treat us to their visual feasts. Rodriguez brings the Chianti, while Lee sets her most welcoming table. Come hungry, overindulge, and bring your checkbook, as you will probably want to take something home with you.

Rodriguez’s wine bottles, wax-dripped and glowing with history, conjure the iconography of 1970s bodegas and basement bars filled with a cigarette-smoking, hip revolutionary intelligentsia flipping through *The Anarchist’s Cookbook*. (Think Morandi meets a beret-wearing Molotov while sharing absinthe and a blunt.) They echo a native New Yorker’s polycultural experience shaped by tradition and memory, and the American colonialist urge to reinvent and sugarcoat history through thrift store kitsch. These are smart, witty works, with a deep understanding of the long history of painting, where Matisse always seems to be hanging around kibitzing. How many paintings make you just want to smile, nod your head in admiration, and maybe reverently ignite a candle in a wine bottle for the ancestors?

Lee’s *Chaekgeori* (bookshelf) series draws from the Korean *Minhwa* folk painting tradition, begun during the Joseon Dynasty—where devotion and precision meet with the poetic and spiritual everyday. Her shelves of teacups, dishes, and toys offer a highly personal vision of abundance and care. Minhwa paintings have a revered folk art history for being honest and transparent, like a mirror of the clear mind. Lee’s compositions feel like offerings—catalogues of happiness, ritual, and memory. You’ll want to hold them in your hands or place them on your own shelves at home, to learn how to more purposefully live with joy.

Together, these two artists use the still life not as a retreat from the world or an intellectually labyrinthine exercise in symbolism, but as a way to understand—to reassemble fragments of culture, family, and memory into something resilient, deliberate, hopeful, joyous, and new. A way to honor the past, hold space in the present, and invite new, collective futures to the table.

Come.

Share that table with us.

There’s wine, porcelain, and a warm place setting waiting just for you.

**Opening Reception:** Sunday, August 10, 2025, from 3–6 PM

**Location:** SHOWROOM

Guerra Paint & Pigment Corp.

57-52 58th Place, Maspeth, NY

*(A Division of theNextWave: a Wade Bonds and William Norton Galleries Production)*

**Exhibition Dates:** August 10 – September 6, 2025

**Gallery Hours:** Monday–Friday, 12–7 PM

For press inquiries, interviews, or images, please contact **William Norton** at [thewilliamnorton@gmail.com](mailto:thewilliamnorton@gmail.com)

# Al Rodriguez



***Happyland***  
20" H x 16" W  
Oil on canvas  
\$1,400



***Cabaret***  
20" H x 16" W  
Oil on canvas  
\$1,400



***Little Table***  
20" H x 16" W  
Oil on canvas  
\$1,400



***Escape Room***  
18" H x 18" W  
Oil on canvas  
\$1,400



***The First Supper***  
18" H x 18" W  
Oil on canvas  
\$1,400



***The Banquet Years***  
18" H x 18" W  
Oil on canvas  
\$1,400



***Round Table***  
18" H x 18" W  
Oil on canvas  
\$1,400



***Little Picnic***  
18" H x 18" W  
Oil on canvas  
\$1,400



***Dutch Table***  
18" H x 18" W  
Oil on canvas  
\$1,400



***Black Panther Room***  
18" H x 18" W  
Oil on canvas  
\$1,400



***Futurist Table***  
18" H x 18" W  
Oil on canvas  
\$1,400



***Scene From An Italian Restaurant***  
18" H x 18" W  
Oil on canvas  
\$1,400

To learn more about the artist, visit his website at  
[www.anibalpadrino.com](http://www.anibalpadrino.com)  
or follow him on Instagram @anibalpadrino

For other inquiries, please contact him at  
[anibal.padrino@gmail.com](mailto:anibal.padrino@gmail.com)

# Stephanie S. Lee



## *Cabinet of Desire III*

30" H x 24" W x 2" D each

Color pigment & ink on Hanji

Limited edition prints in custom sizes  
available upon request.



## *Cabinet of Desire V*

48" H x 25" W x 2" D each

Color pigment & ink on Hanji

Limited edition prints in custom sizes  
available upon request.

To learn more about the artist, visit her website at

[www.stephanieslee.com](http://www.stephanieslee.com)

or follow her on Instagram @Stephanie\_S.\_Lee

For other inquiries, please contact her at

[artiststephanieslee@gmail.com](mailto:artiststephanieslee@gmail.com)