

**Thinkspace Projects Presents *Reen Barrera: Cluster Fudge***



*'Cover Up' by Reen Barrera*

**JUNE 5, 2021 - JUNE 26, 2021**

**Thinkspace Projects**

4217 W. Jefferson Blvd. | Los Angeles, CA 90016

T: 310.558.3375 | Tues. - Sat. Noon to 6PM

Opening Night June 5th | Saturday, 5pm - 9pm

[Thinkspaceprojects.com](http://Thinkspaceprojects.com)

limited entry | masks required

**Los Angeles, CA (May 19, 2021)** - Thinkspace Projects is thrilled to present Reen Barrera's newest solo show, *'Cluster Fudge.'* Following his most recent show at Pintô Art Museum in the Philippines, Barrera is bringing his work to Los Angeles.

Barrera has taken the idiom "it's written all over your face" to heart and beyond, crafting his work around a central character he created early on in his career as an artist. Ohlala embodies Barrera's thoughts, displaying them through a variety of colors painted on the being's face. This serves as a mechanism to silently communicate, focusing on the unspoken rather than what is loud and clear.

*'Cluster Fudge'* is a collection of work that pulls from facial expressions, allowing Barrera to turn experiences into artwork, taking the literal and mixing it up with symbols and patterns. Through acrylic, oil, and aerosol he crafts this work, embracing accidents like drips, smudges, and splatters, allowing these to lead him to the final product.

“In some artworks, I discreetly take socioeconomic classes. Some people are born rich, mid class, some are poor. But the common ground is, everybody has no choice but to deal with it. So I cover all their heads with a canvas cloth to give OhLala the freedom to paint their own symbols on their heads as if they are designing their own fate. And I guess that is what we all have in common, the power to make things happen for ourselves.”

Using Ohlala as the great unifier, Barrera tackles the idea of difference and circumstance, removing all physical indications and allowing a blank slate. He effectively creates a universe where Ohlala could be anyone, even Barrera himself. In what is quite possibly Reen Barrera’s most personal collection to date, he represents and depicts several experiences that have helped create the artist that he is today, all with Ohlala as the subject.

‘Cluster Fudge’ opens June 5, 2021. On view until June 26, 2021 at Thinkspace Projects.

### **About Reen Barrera**

Born in Paris, France, in 1990, Reen Barrera spent his childhood recreating his favorite cartoons with papier-mâché’. As a teenager, he repaired wooden church statues and would keep the excess wood scraps to make toys and figures out of. He naturally circled back into this practice after graduating from art school. With “Ohlala’ being the omphalos to his universe, Barrera presents a colorful commentary based on personal experiences.

### **About Thinkspace**

Thinkspace was founded in 2005; now in LA’s thriving West Adams District, the gallery has garnered an international reputation as one of the most active and productive exponents of the New Contemporary Art Movement. Maintaining its founding commitment to the promotion and support of its artists, Thinkspace has steadily expanded its roster and diversified its projects, creating collaborative and institutional opportunities all over the world. Founded in the spirit of forging recognition for young, emerging, and lesser-known talents, the gallery is now home to artists from all over the world, ranging from the emerging, mid-career, and established.

Though the New Contemporary Art Movement has remained largely unacknowledged by the vetted institutions of the fine art world and its arbiters of ‘high culture,’ the future promises a shift. The Movement’s formative aversion to the establishment is also waning in the wake of its increased visibility, institutional presence, and widespread popularity. Thinkspace has sought to champion and promote the unique breadth of the Movement, creating new opportunities for the presentation of its artists and work. An active advocate for what is now one of the longest extant organized art movements in history, Thinkspace is an established voice for its continued growth and evolution, proving their commitment by expanding its projects beyond Los Angeles, exhibiting with partner galleries and organizations in Berlin, Hong Kong, London, New York City, Detroit, Chicago, and Honolulu among many others, participating in International Art Fairs, and curating New Contemporary content for Museums. Committed to the vision, risk, and exceptional gifts of its artists, the gallery is first and foremost a family. From the streets to the museums, and from the “margins” to the white cube, Thinkspace is re-envisioning what it means to be “institutional.”