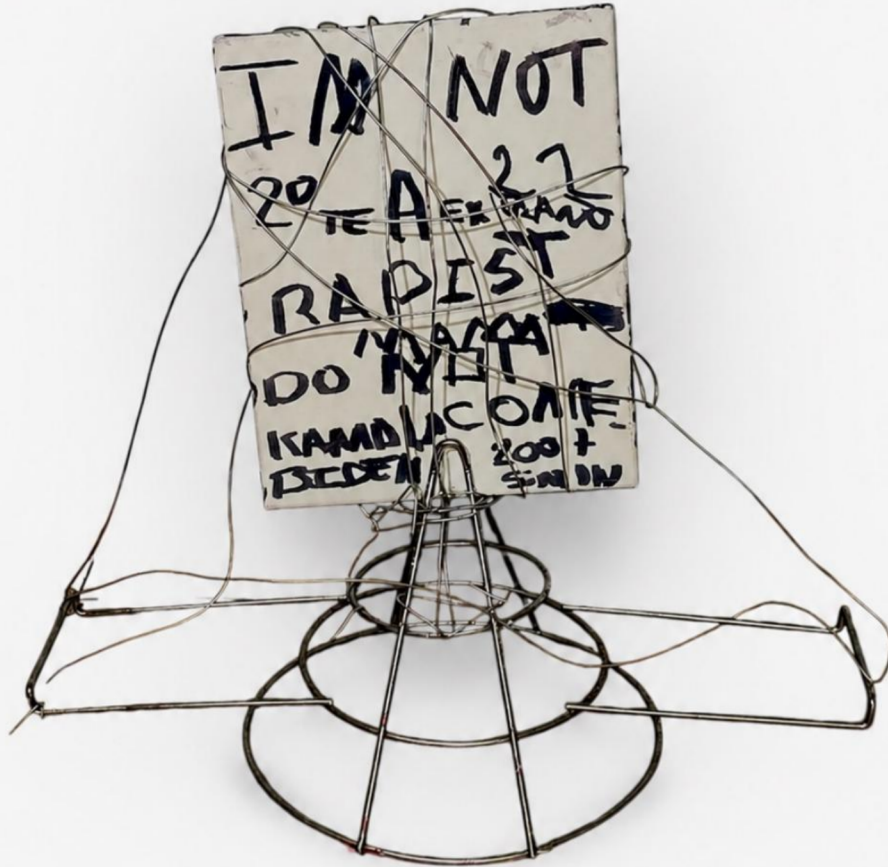


AMERICAN DREAM

— SIMON GAMA —

A MULTIDISCIPLINARY INSTALLATION PROJECT



*"These pieces are not perfect.
They are imperfect,
like the dreams I once had."*

— GAMA

NEW YORK
2026

ARTIST STATEMENT

AMERICAN DREAM, 2021–2025

For four years (2021–2025), I built **American Dream** from the materials of survival itself — wire, chains, found objects, industrial remnants, cheap paint, and real clothing worn by a woman held in immigration detention.

I did not make this work from research. I lived it.

I worked as a production manager in the factories this work comes from. But I was also a victim of that system: the numbers that crushed the workers crushed me too, and the pressure wore me down almost every day. This project is my testimony — and my way of healing.

Working there, I fell into a deep depression. I saw so much pain and so much exploitation, and nobody did anything. The only thing that mattered was the numbers.

I saw women harassed and then silenced — unheard because they did not speak English. I saw suffering with nowhere to go, and the vulnerable left to carry it alone.

These works hold what I lived — details no outsider could know. They are my testimony, made so that what was unseen can finally be seen.

These works are dark and painful because they are catharsis. Everything in American Dream is something I lived.

This work is not only about migrants. It is not only about Latinos. The abuse reached everyone inside those walls — US-born workers, older people who could not find other work, people who had grown accustomed to being exploited and humiliated. That is why it is called American Dream: because we all have that dream.

The works speak of labor, dignity, exhaustion, belonging, fear, hope, and contradiction — not as ideas, but as memory. They are intentionally raw. They reject polish in favor of honesty. They do not seek comfort. They seek recognition. I want this work to touch people's hearts.

I have never been interested in fame or spectacle. The work matters more than my face.

This project was born from respect, love, frustration, gratitude, and contradiction. It asks what it means to belong to a country that depends on the labor of millions while questioning their humanity.

These works are not perfect. They are imperfect on purpose, like the American Dream itself. It is precisely within those fractures that their meaning and power reside.

— G A M A

New York

2026

WHY THIS WORK EXISTS

American Dream was not created inside an academic institution, a gallery, or a museum. It was created through lived experience.

I arrived in the United States at the age of seventeen, under difficult circumstances. Long before that journey, art was already part of daily life. Raised in a family of self-taught makers, I grew up surrounded by handmade objects, painted clay, drawings, and improvised forms of creativity. My first lessons in art came not from textbooks, but from observation, repetition, and the act of making things by hand.

After arriving in the United States, a different world opened before me. Museums, galleries, public collections, and contemporary art became accessible in ways I had never experienced before. These spaces became an informal education. Looking became a discipline. Observation became a language.

Over time, the realities of labor, migration, exclusion, resilience, and survival became impossible to separate from artistic practice. American Dream emerged from those experiences.

The project was never intended to produce decorative objects. It was created to give form to stories that often remain unseen, unheard, or deliberately ignored.

The works speak about labor, dignity, exhaustion, belonging, fear, hope, and contradiction. They are not directed toward a single community. They speak to immigrants, certainly, but also to workers, families, and individuals whose lives are shaped by systems that frequently fail to protect them.

For me, this exhibition is more important than the sale of any individual artwork. The works were conceived as a collective body. Together they form a testimony, a conversation, and a record of a particular moment in history.

At its core, American Dream is an act of faith.

Faith that art can still create dialogue.

Faith that difficult truths deserve space.

Faith that people can recognize themselves in the experiences of others.

And faith that one day dignity, respect, and humanity will matter more than fear.

— G A M A

New York

2026

GAMA

ABOUT THE ARTIST

GAMA is a self-taught multidisciplinary artist based in New York. His work explores labor, migration, memory, identity, power, and human vulnerability through painting, sculpture, installation, and found objects.

Raised in a family of makers and self-taught creatives, GAMA's earliest encounters with art came through observation, craftsmanship, and the transformation of everyday materials.

After arriving in the United States at seventeen, museums, galleries, books, and direct observation became his informal education. Since beginning his artistic practice in 2015, GAMA has participated in independent exhibitions, received support through an arts grant, and developed *American Dream* (2021–2025), a multidisciplinary project.

Reserved and introspective, GAMA often allows the work to speak in place of the artist. His practice rejects decoration in favor of testimony, using imperfection, deterioration, and found materials as evidence of lived experience.

— GAMA

New York

2026



**SOME PEOPLE
INHERIT THE DREAM.
OTHERS SURVIVE IT.**

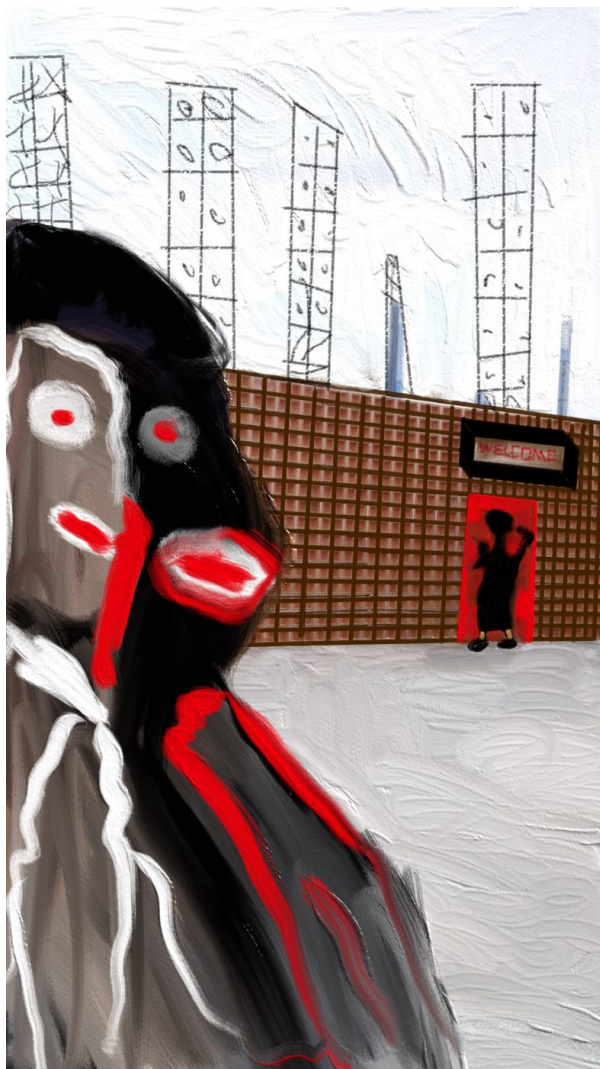
— GAMA

DIGITAL WORKS

Four works created digitally — photographs taken by the artist and intervened with digital painting, and works born entirely on the screen.

WELCOME

2023–2024



Welcome

Digital art — photograph taken by the artist in New York, intervened with digital painting

Dimensions variable

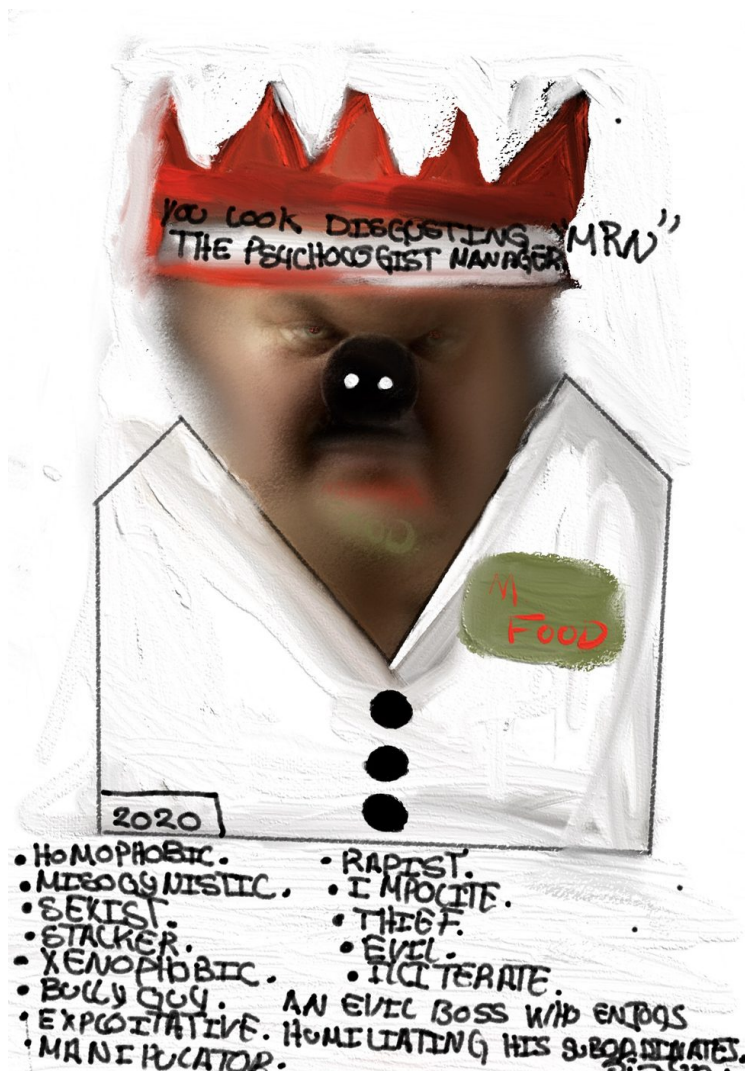
GAMA, 2023–2024

"I feel like this every day, being in a place I will never escape — a place that always tells me 'welcome,' but there is always a barrier: living in a country that is not yours, where you can pass through that door but never return."

Welcome — but never return.

THE MANAGER

2021–2025



The Manager

Digital art — photograph intervened by the artist

Dimensions variable

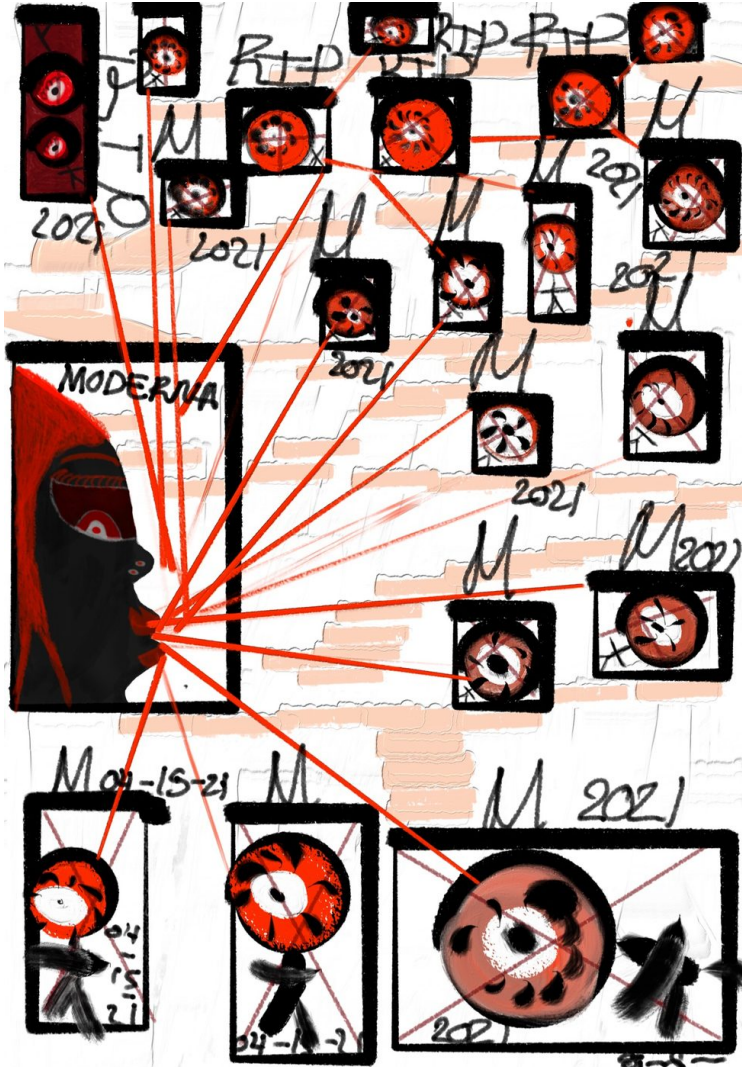
GAMA, 2021–2025

"A man with a pig's face. The words are what I heard every day — how he spoke about women. This is what he made me feel."

You look disgusting.

MODERNA

2021-2022



Moderna

Digital art, created by the artist

Dimensions variable

GAMA, 2021–2022

"Born as the pandemic began and the project started. The stigma of which vaccine you had — and the fear of what it would bring us."

Fear nobody could see.

DESPERATION

2021–2025



Desperation

Digital artwork

Dimensions variable

GAMA, 2021–2025

"Despair rendered digitally — from the years the project was born."

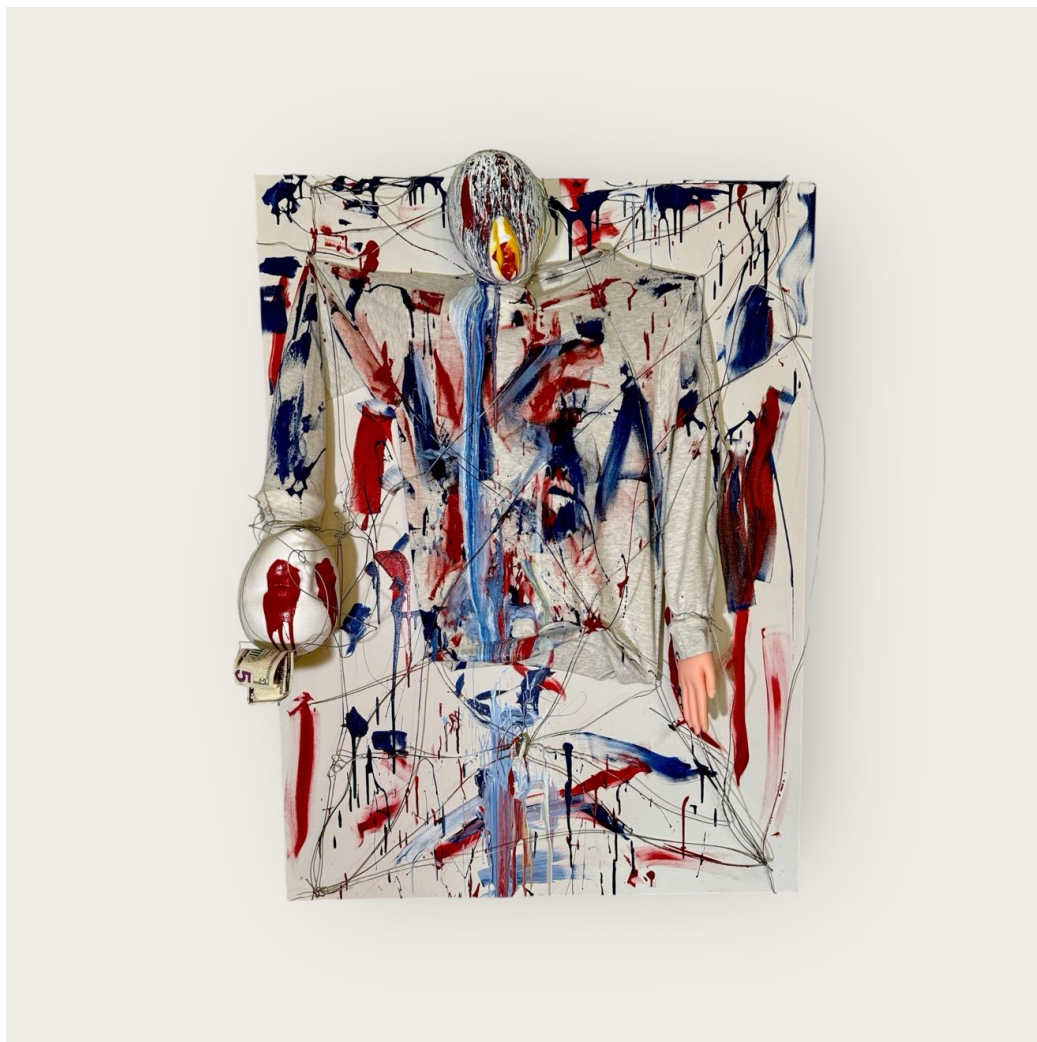
Desperation has a color.

SELECTED WORKS

Twelve physical works — mixed media on canvas and sculpture, built from the materials of survival itself.

AMERICAN SWAG — THE NEW AMERICAN FLAG

2021–2025



American Swag — The New American Flag

Mixed media on canvas — acrylic paint, wire, chrome spheres, \$5 bill, plastic hand, sweatshirt worn by a person held in immigration detention

36 × 48 × 1.5 in

GAMA, 2021–2025

"The red is not paint. It is the tears people cry here — tears of blood. Whether you were born here, chose to come, or were brought without choice — we are all trapped in the same wire."

This is the new American flag.

THIS IS WHY YOU NEED TO WEAR CONDOMS

2021–2025



This is why you need to wear condoms

Mixed media on canvas — white paint, photographs, metal, prescription medication

14 × 11 × 1 in

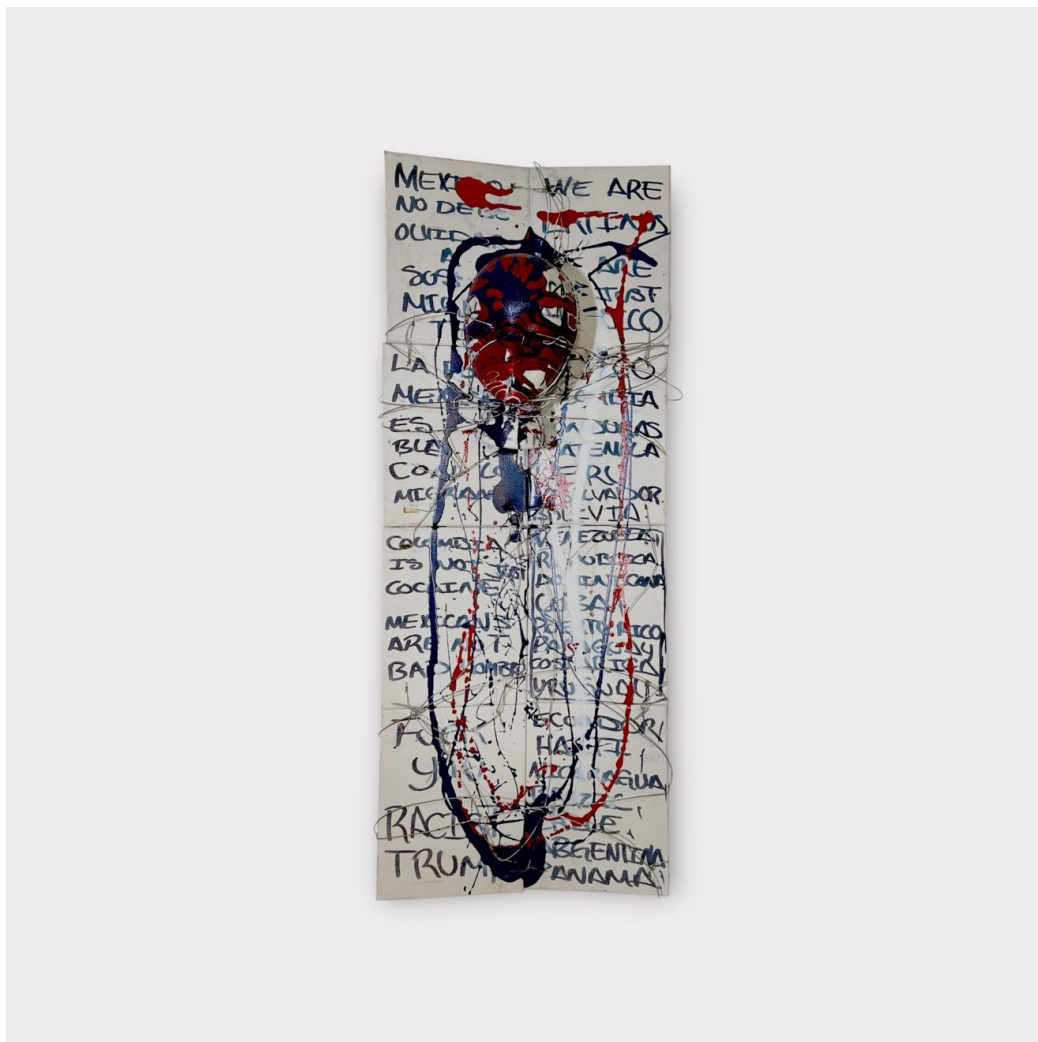
GAMA, 2021–2025

"These materials are not symbolic. They were the materials available to me during one of the darkest periods of my life. Making this work became an act of survival."

The work does not ask for comfort. It asks to be confronted.

PREJUICIOS

2021–2025



Prejuicios

Mixed media — small canvases sewn with wire, acrylic paint, found text

16 × 40 × 1 in

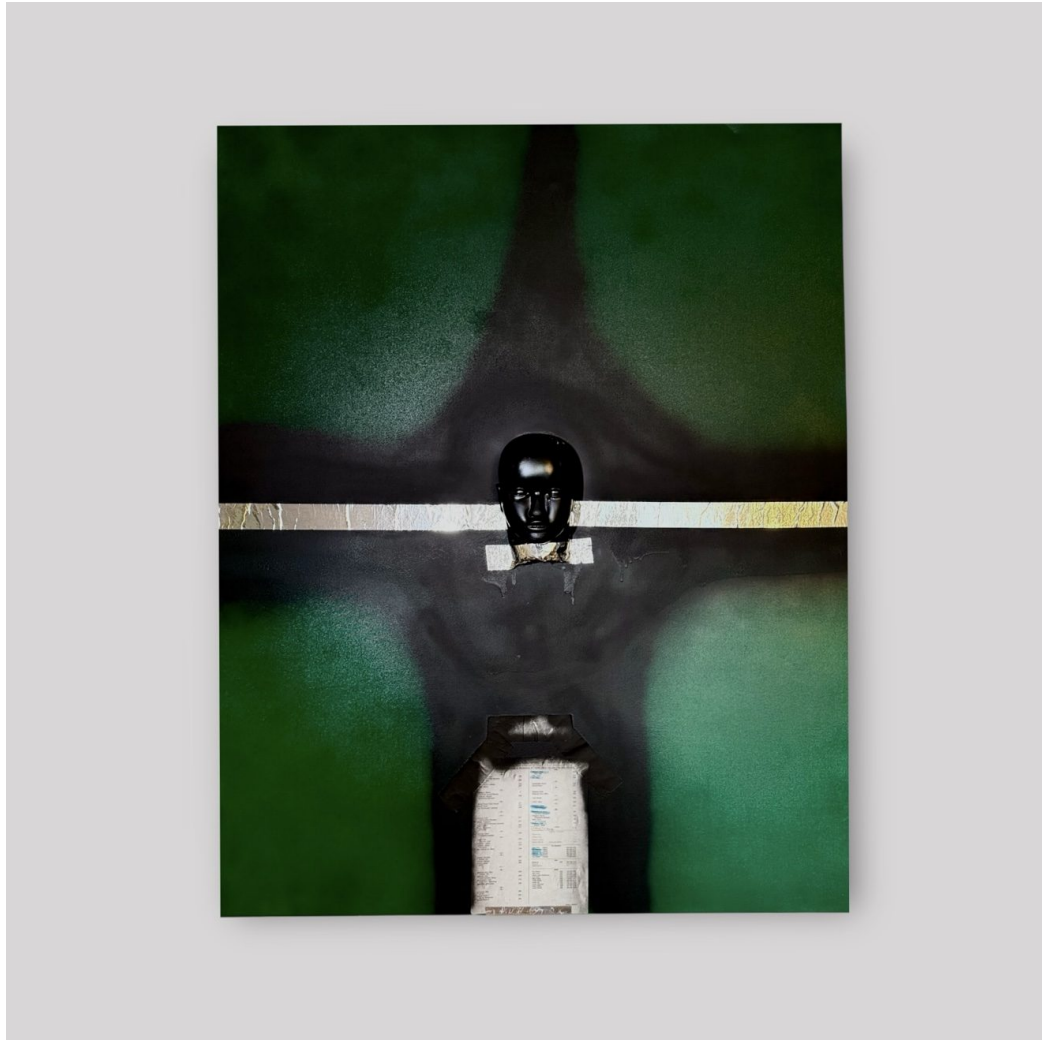
GAMA, 2021–2025

"Prejudice, stitched together — the labels sewn onto us before we ever speak."

Sewn shut.

EMPLOYEE #911-94094X

2021–2025



Employee #911-94094X

Mixed media on canvas — spray paint, oil paint, plastic mannequins, metal tape, found labor documents

48 × 60 × 1.5 in

GAMA, 2021–2025

"Not a name. A number. This is how the system files a human being."

Employee #911-94094X.

RESPECT

2021–2025



Respect

Mixed media on canvas — spray paint, metallic tape, found labor documents, sculptural elements

48 × 60 × 1.5 in

GAMA, 2021–2025

"Respect is not given here. It is demanded — in red, in tape, in noise."

This is our rights.

VIDA EN TIEMPOS DE COVID

2021–2025



Vida en Tiempos de COVID

Mixed media on canvas — acrylic paint, found images, wire, sculptural elements

48 × 60 × 1.5 in

GAMA, 2021–2025

"Life in the time of COVID — when the world stopped, and the workers could not."

Life went on. For some.

HOMELAND SECURITY RAINBOW

2021–2025



Homeland Security Rainbow

Mixed media on canvas — acrylic paint, plastic chain, found language

36 × 48 × 1.5 in

GAMA, 2021–2025

“Severe. High. Elevated. Guarded. Low. A rainbow of threat levels hanging from a chain.”

Do not come.

NUNCA ESCAPARÁS

2021–2025



Nunca Escaparás

Mixed media on canvas

36 × 48 × 1.5 in

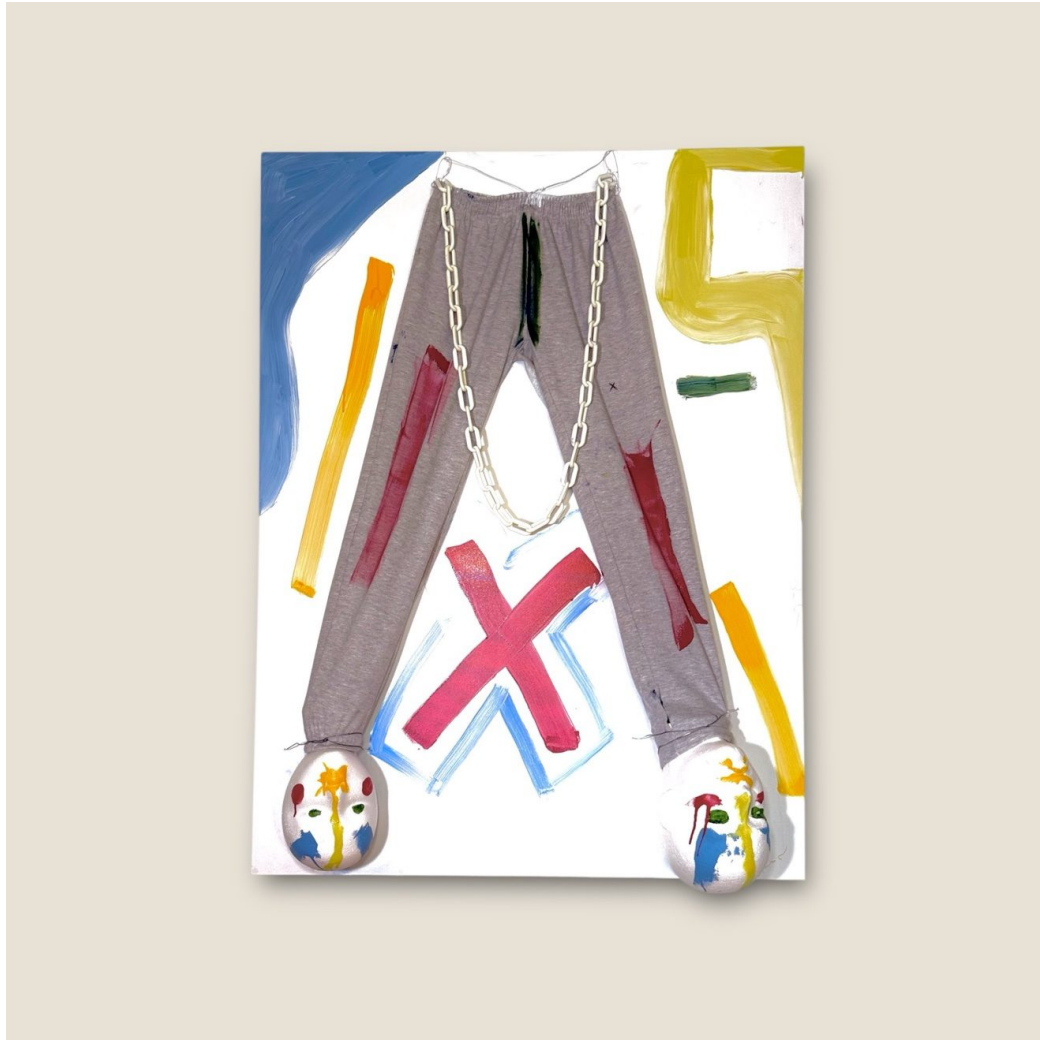
GAMA, 2021–2025

"You will never escape — the sentence written into the walls of the system."

Nunca escaparás.

DETAINED

2021–2025



Detained

Mixed media on canvas — industrial paint, sweatpants gifted by a person detained by ICE, plastic chain, painted masks, wire
36 × 48 in

GAMA, 2021–2025

*"The pants were a gift from someone detained by ICE — the clothing they were given. The chain is how they lived.
The masks are the rights trampled underfoot, for the dream of working honestly."*

Detained for dreaming.

PRODUCTION LINE

2021–2025



Production Line

Acrylic on canvas

20 × 36 × 1.5 in

GAMA, 2021–2025

"The ghost figures are the production lines I have seen everywhere: the biggest eats the smallest."

Exploitation in life.

I'M NOT A RAPIST

2021–2025



I'm Not a Rapist

Sculpture — inverted oil strainer, wire, small canvas with handwritten text

Dimensions not available

GAMA, 2021–2025

"My number one. A letter of release: governments playing with immigrants, with citizens — with the phrase of a president used against Mexicans... but I have never harmed anyone."

I'm not a rapist.

I'M NOT A RAPIST II

2021–2025



I'm Not a Rapist II

Styrofoam head mounted on small canvas, wire, industrial paint

Dimensions not available

GAMA, 2021–2025

"The sequel. The same offense, the same wound — worn on the face."

The wound, continued.

INSTALLATION CONCEPT

AMERICAN DREAM, 2021–2025



THE MACHINE

Cold environment. Black plastic-covered room, industrial tables, payroll checks, factory audio.

THE SYSTEM

Neutral environment. Black plastic, documents, cage installation, surveillance imagery.

THE GHOSTS

Warm environment. Psychological space culminating in Nunca Escaparás.

American Dream transforms the gallery into an immersive environment where temperature, sound, labor documents, industrial materials, and personal testimony become part of a single narrative. Visitors move from labor and bureaucracy toward memory, trauma, and survival.

The plastic-covered room recreates the deplorable conditions workers face every day — not only exploitation, but the very air they breathe.

The exhibition ends here. The ghosts do not.

— GAMA

MATERIALS

BUILT FROM SCRAPS

All the materials I use are industrial and disposable: industrial paint, wire, secondhand clothing, things people throw away. I was inspired by arte povera, but with a rough hand — direct, unpolished, honest.

These are the materials of the workers I paint about. Under the right light, their colors come alive, and what was disposable becomes worthy of a museum wall.

That transformation is the whole point: the American dream, built from scraps, asking to be seen.

— GAMA

CLOSER LOOK

THE MATERIALS ARE THE MESSAGE



American Swag

chrome spheres, wire, \$5 bill



Prejuicios

wire, acrylic, handwritten names

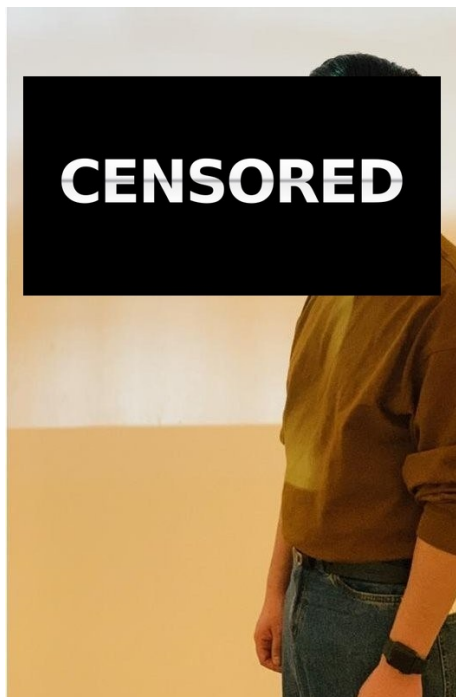


Employee #911-94094X

mannequin, metal tape, labor documents

THE ARTIST

SIMON GAMA



I am a multidisciplinary artist living and working in New York. Raised in a family of makers, craftspeople and street vendors, I encountered creativity early as a form of work, imagination and survival.

Primarily self-taught, I built my practice through studio experimentation, courses, books, museums, galleries and direct observation. The visual culture of New York — and the experience of adapting to a new language and society — continues to shape my work.

— GAMA

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS & RECOGNITION

SIMON GAMA

2026

Selected artist

"The New American Flag" — 42nd Community Art Exhibition in Virtual Reality, Circular ArtSpace, Bristol, UK

2024

Group exhibition

"Love Safely, Play Creatively" — National Condom Day Art Show, Brooklyn Community Pride Center, Brooklyn, NY

2022

Invited artist

POWER: 2nd Annual Juneteenth Celebration, Warwick, NY

2022

Grant recipient

Orange County Community Arts Grant — support for the development of American Dream

2020

Solo exhibition

Artisan Emporium Square Market, Middletown, NY

PRESS & FEATURES

2026

Selected for publication

Revista Explorando Arte y Cultura de Latinoamérica, Fundación Artes Multicap, Cali, Colombia — *Rostros tras el cristal / Faces Behind the Glass* selected by curatorial evaluation (71/100) · Forthcoming edition, December 2026

2026

Selected for interview feature

ELSEWHERE / STRATUM Journal — in-depth interview on the *American Dream* series · Forthcoming publication

2026

Selected for interview

Al-Tiba9 Interviews, Barcelona, Spain — artist interview on the *American Dream* series · Forthcoming publication

2026

Radio interview

La Voz con Mariel Fiori, La Voz Magazine (Bard College) · Radio Kingston — interview on the *American Dream* series · Scheduled for December 8, 2026

2026

Artist Spotlight

Orange County NY Arts Council — feature on the completed *American Dream* series

Primarily self-taught. Artistic education through studio practice, courses, museums, galleries and direct observation.

GAMA

American Dream, 2021–2025

American Dream is an autobiographical body of work exploring labor, migration, bureaucracy, identity, memory, trauma, and survival.

Through painting, sculpture, found objects, documents, sound, and installation, the project examines the systems that shape human lives and the invisible marks they leave behind.

New York

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Some people inherit the dream. Others survive it.

— GAMA