

Ethan Chan Artist Statement

The series of *sauce-suits* came out of a desire to utilize fast food culture thematically. When I was trying to respond to something as ubiquitous as fast food objects, I related it to the same convenience and “magic” that movie props, costumes, and custom wardrobes have. I associate all of that heavily with Southern Californian culture. Cowboys aren’t just an iconic American archetype, but also a very Western archetype. I’ve always thought that the antihero figure paralleled well to the artist figure on some level; toying with the richness of both calories and character, in which I hope expresses a certain kind of giddy and abhorrent look at consumerism.

Ethan Chan’s installation work heavily references his love for plastic culture and kitsch, utilizing object fetish, cinema and television archetypes, and general Americana to call to attention the way everyday objects, and the people who interact with them, are perceived. His fascination for process and oversimplification come from the kind of synthetic taste seen all throughout Southern Californian cookie-cutter houses, amusement parks, fetishized automobile culture and Hollywood. His recent work looks at the interesting intersections between Internationalism and Americana.

Ethan Chan (b. Kenosha, WI) grew up moving back and forth between the American Midwest and East Asia. He lives and works in Los Angeles, CA.