



Identity? Crisis? Let's make some art about that

By [Jeanne Claire van Ryzin](#) | Friday, July 15, 2011, 01:45 PM

Alter egos — we've all used them to a certain extent, even if that means we just tweak our public persona depending on whatever situation we're in.

"Identity Crisis," a new exhibit opening at Grayduck Gallery, features the work of three Texas-based artists — Carlos Donjuan, Hector Hernandez and William Hundley — who explore the concept of identity in different creative ways.

Why do we hide, these artists wonder? Is it to protect others or ourselves, or to conceal what we might have done?

Donjuan combines a street-art aesthetic with a mashup of post-War painting styles in his quirky yet intriguing portraits — portraits in which he slyly leaves the figures faceless and or with visages covered by masks.

Hernandez — who organized the exhibit — draws from his childhood fascination with superheroes to make his mixed-media images of his own imaginary yet quirky superheroes that are as strangely menacing as they are goofy and innocent.

Hundley loves to combine humor and absurdity with beauty in his mixed-media work. Although his color photographs seem to be computer-manipulated, they aren't. Hundley captures plumes and billows of fabric that seem to be floating enigmatically in the air. But there's no trickery involved — actually, there's someone covered in fabric jumping that creates the surreal image. Heh.

All three of these artists have work in "Heir Today, Gone Tomorrow," the smart and exhilarating show now at the Mexican American Cultural Center. And Hernandez, as part of the artist-curatorial trio Los Outsiders, co-organized "Heir Today." Together, the two shows strike up a compelling conversation.

'Identity Crisis'

Opening reception: 7 to 9 p.m. today. Exhibit continues through Aug. 21

Where: Grayduck Gallery, 608 W. Monroe St.

www.grayduckgallery.com



Image: "The Ghost of Modern Needs," mixed media. Hector Hernandez.