

EXHIBITION REVIEW OF
GUADALUPE MARAVILLA'S *PORTALS*
at ICA MIAMI

BY CLAIRE BREUKEL



These embroideries overlay a wall mural reminiscent of a hand drawn map marking territory and possible routes of travel. The mural is a result of a Salvadoran children's number and drawing game called "Tripa Chuca", which, ironically translates to dirty guts. Maravilla's game has been played by three generations of immigrants—second generation, newly documented and undocumented.

This wall is in turn the background to four life size sculptural sound gong headdresses. Combining Mayan symbols, mythology as well as contemporary and anatomical paraphernalia, Maravilla conflates cultural references to create a modern day costume of multiplicity embodying today's complex immigrant identity.



Unlike many art-driven politicized dialogues, Maravilla's headdresses offer solutions, albeit momentary. Activated during an hour-long performance, the gongs let off vibrational sound for therapeutic healing. Adding a spiritual and human dimension to the cold hard facts of immigration processes, one cannot help feel that the vibrations are a comforting call to the undocumented children who have, and are trying to, pass through the portal.

Curated by Gean Moreno "Portals" is on view until November 3, 2019