

For Immediate Release:

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Eduardo Portillo | *Soft Edge*

Artists' Reception: Friday, September 12, 6:00 – 8:30 pm

On view: September 5 – October 4, 2014

Anya Tish Gallery is pleased to announce ***Soft Edge***, a solo exhibition of Houston-based artist Eduardo Portillo. The exhibition features recent work that both examines and explores the enduring progression of the shaped canvas, as well as the evolving relevance and categorization of painting as a discipline.

Portillo's work challenges the most formal of conventions--the flat surface on which a painting is often created. The artist constructs uniquely asymmetrical stretchers with varying edges, angles, and faces, creating sculpted paintings (or painted sculptures) that not only question the necessity of the rectangular painting, but reject flatness entirely. Stretching canvas over the irregular, fluctuating structure, results in undulations between elevated points of pressure and fluid expanses of space. The topological compositions create shadows and highlights where hue and tone are consistent, and the uneven, seemingly malleable edges, often painted in complimenting colors, reflect onto the walls.

The artist's modular works oscillate between adept formalism and conscientious spontaneity, revealing graceful craftsmanship through his reformation of the shaped canvas. By utilizing the third dimension, this body of work expands into "real space", celebrating the tensions between implied capacity and internal boundary. The pieces are activated by shape, form, depth, and color, as well as the angle from which they are seen. Each painting presents its own level of interaction and reaction between the work, the space, and the viewer.

Originally from El Salvador, Eduardo Portillo has been living and working in Houston, Texas since 2003, and received his BFA in Painting from the University of Houston in 2011. Portillo has exhibited in venues throughout Texas, including Lawndale Art Center, Houston; Blue Star Contemporary, San Antonio; Houston Community College, Houston; San Jacinto College, Houston; as well as galleries in Houston and Dallas. In 2013, his exhibition with the HCC Central Art Gallery was included in the Texas Biennial. Portillo was recently awarded an Artist Residency and Fellowship with the Vermont Studio Center for the spring of 2015.