

Domestic Scenes: The Art of Ramiro Gomez

Lawrence Weschler, Cris Scorza
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Lawrence Weschler, Cris Scorza : Domestic Scenes: The Art of Ramiro Gomez before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Domestic Scenes: The Art of Ramiro Gomez:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great artistry at work By SC Intrigued by Ramiro Gomez' artwork, author and passionate David Hockney fan, Lawrence Weschler spent some time with the young artist, delving deeper into his psyche and what it is that drives him to create. Starting out with an interview in the NY Times, it turned into a full-fledged art book. Ramiro Gomez appropriates art from masters like David Hockney, Jeff Koons and Diego Velázquez, and adds his own twist by replacing or adding the (mostly) Latino household workers of the affluent rich. Born in a household of Mexican immigrant parents and drawing from his own experiences, Gomez knows all too well the differences between the elite and the workforce that serves them. With his works he brings to light the contrasts between these two worlds. (images 2 and 3) For other works, cardboard is the medium, out of which he creates human-sized cutouts, and which are then given a space of their own in the real world. (image 4) What I particularly liked are his magazine creations. Tearing out regular ads in magazines or newspapers, in these too, he offsets again the lives of the workers against their luxurious working environments. (images 5 and 6) Weschler manages to perfectly capture the artist. Gomez comes over as a very humble guy. He is curious and driven. He is not

one to demand attention to his artistry. But he doesn't need to. With the talent he has, it will automatically come to him. (image 1) Ramiro Gomez with his cardboard cutouts/credit: Damon Casarez for The New York Times other image credits: Ramiro Gomez (from his Facebook page) (image 2) Hockney's "American Collectors, Fred and Marcia Weisman", 1968 (image 3) Gomez's "American Gardeners", 2014 (image 4) cardboard as medium (image 5) "Maria's paycheck", 9 x 11 in. Acrylic and ink on magazine, 2014 (image 6) "Isadora's reflection" 9" x 11". Acrylic on magazine, 2014 Review copy supplied by publisher through NetGalley in exchange for a rating and/or review. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Invisibles Visible By writeoncindy An artist's brilliant look into an ignored segment of society, which is essential to keeping another part of society existing. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I love Ramiro Gomez's eye and his ability to engage his ... By Michelle R. Nasser This book and this art are phenomenal! I love Ramiro Gomez's eye and his ability to engage his viewers by pointing out the most obvious. Weschler will make you fall in love with him too.

Award-winning author Lawrence Weschler's book on the young Mexican American artist Ramiro Gomez explores questions of social equity and the chasms between cultures and classes in America. Gomez, born in 1986 in San Bernardino, California, to undocumented Mexican immigrant parents, bridges the divide between the affluent wealthy and their usually invisible domestic help—the nannies, gardeners, housecleaners, and others who make their lifestyles possible—by inserting images of these workers into sly pastiches of iconic David Hockney paintings, subtly doctoring glossy magazine ads, and subversively slotting life-size painted cardboard cutouts into real-life situations. *Domestic Scenes* engages with Gomez and his work, offering an inspiring vision of the purposes and possibilities of art.

What a fortuitous meeting of artists this book is: Gomez's parents are working-class Mexican immigrants, and their lives, along with Gomez's own years working as a nanny, inform his powerful assertions, both in his paintings and on the streets of Los Angeles, of the importance of the ignored: the workers who make everything in Lotus Land work. Weschler, who has the journalist's eye, the art-history chops, and the writer's feel for narrative required to make all of this come alive, is inspired to produce some of his finest work. The result is aesthetic and intellectual delight punctuated by clarifying jabs of outrage.