

## Miguel Paredes

-by Mika King



*Lost Souls in a River*

### Miguel Paredes - Train Series

Miguel Paredes's boundless approach to the canvas is evident upon sight, communicated through his vibrant and eclectic artistic style; a meshing of abstracted figurative painting, rich with line drawings, and graphic elements. Working in mixed media, Paredes's work is energetic, and sometimes frantically so. During his special exhibition at Agora Gallery of Chelsea, Paredes's canvas was alive with line work, and buzzing with diverse layers upon layers. As he combines mediums, he also mixes the elements of stylized city scenes and what appear to be juxtaposed abstractions of thoughts and ideas. Improbable backgrounds emerge, and bold surface elements seep onto his canvas from the realms of internal expression. In his painting "Lost Souls in a River", flowers crawl down the canvas to frame an interior scene, as though they were painted onto a pane of glass. They are depicted as symbols within memory in the unique way that thoughts often reveal themselves. Humming with detail and infused with the electricity of the urban pulse, Paredes's paintings also include atmospheric texts. His graphic inclinations shine through, his words taking on the

look of messages scribed upon the surface of a photograph. His use of color is varied; represented by both rich, solid forms, and figures composed of mingling hues, they suggest a certain transparency and insight. Viscous color often drips vertically down Paredes's canvas, adding movement to already active planes. With white line work on black backgrounds, and colors glowing like bright neon lights, Paredes's darker paintings register as the semi-familiarity of inverted images, and the darkness of humid city nights. Having lived in New York City, and currently residing in Miami Beach, Florida, Miguel Paredes explores urban themes, and more particularly, provides insight into the human condition.