

Friday
MAY 2, 2025

NO MÁS

FREE

LAYERING TIME, TEXTILES & TESTIMONY



AN EXHIBITION CATALOG BY NOEMI MENDEZ-COLON

This catalog is published in conjunction with No Más: Layering Time, Textiles & Testimony on view at The V Gallery from May 2 through May 9, 2025.

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No Más:

Layering Time, Textiles & Testimony

INTRODUCTION

“As both wearable art and aesthetic archive, my looks in No Más become sites of resistance — resonating with memory, transformation, and agency. They remind us that fashion is never neutral. It is a native tongue. A second skin. A testimony,”

— Noemi Mendez-Colon, *The Eastsider* (2025)

In “No Más: Layering Time, Textile, and Testimony,” Mendez-Colon explores the intersection of fashion, history, and personal narrative, using clothing as a medium to speak about identity, resistance, and transformation. Through this conceptual collection, she weaves together distinct historical moments that have shaped the lives of Chicana women, turning those moments into living testaments of resilience.

Each era in the collection is interpreted as a uniform inspired by its defining fashion trends — from the pre-Columbian foundations of indigenous textiles and natural dyes to the transformative shifts for multifunctionality in the Mexican Revolution — representing a period of cultural evolution as well as movements of defiance against the forces that sought to silence marginalized voices. The garments she created are more than just clothing; they are the stories of generations, layered with meaning, memory, and a call to action. By incorporating both traditional techniques and contemporary design, she invites viewers to engage with the past while challenging how we think about fashion, identity, and our narratives today.

The polysemous name No Más — meaning “no more,” “enough,” or “just because” — speaks to the multidimensional struggles for freedom, justice, and self-expression. It is a rejection of oppression, a declaration of resilience, and a powerful symbol of resistance. Through this collection, she honors the experiences of women whose stories have often been overlooked or distorted, while also creating a space for dialogue and reflection on what it means to reclaim one’s narrative.

Each piece in the collection is designed to transcend its material form, asking the wearer to not only adorn themselves but to embody the stories and struggles it represents. By layering time, textile, and testimony, No Más is a testament to the enduring power of clothing as a vehicle for change, connection, and self-determination.

Noemi Mendez-Colon

NO MÁS

Layering Time, Textiles & Testimony

We layered from need
desperate to keep warm
not for cloth but for hot blood
still we rot desolate
confined in borrowed lairs
until the memories blur
into a language only skin remembers
only skin can understand

Quick then
we cover
we hide
we weave through the hurt
spin a second skin
work to forget
to bury the first lair
until the thread unravels
revealing it was always
the same wound

Quick then
we cover
we forget
what only skin remembers
what only skin can understand:
it was always the same thread
pulling us through

Noemi Mendez-Colon

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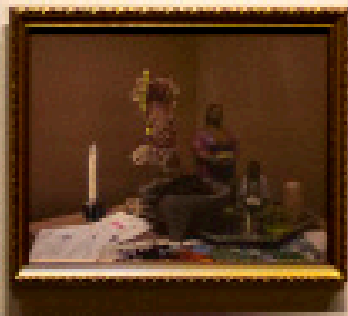
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