



University of SC - MFA Show

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the ocean as it sways her on a metaphoric journey home, to the islands of Puerto Rico and the tropical waters that reach from the West Indies to Florida. A visual narrative unfolds her life experiences as they relate to her home, the sea: investigating specific influential life events such as discovering local coral reefs, almost drowning in a rip current, dreaming of the sea, and snorkeling in the past two years. Accumulated layers of paints and prints convey large seascapes, obscuring depths in the distance, while certain features closer to the foreground are emphasized with fluid clarity. Although some of the seascapes appear desolate and drowned in blue, corals, aquatic plants, and fish endure throughout most of the pictured environments.

Because the ocean is a part of Her-

nandez's home, she has seen firsthand environmental degradation humans have caused to the oceans and wishes to raise awareness of the importance of aquatic ecosystem as it relates to human life. In retaliation to this climate change, the ocean has also become a destructive force to her home on land. No matter the circumstances, whether from near-death experience to the destructive path of hurricanes, she will always find herself returning to the sea. Hogar is the Spanish meaning of "home," which is central focus of the work. By adding the letter 'a' to the word, it changes to ahogar, meaning "to drown." The artist's intention is to submerge the viewer within the seascapes.

Chad Penner: Superpower, a solo exhibition by artist Chad Penner, on view

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