

49 South Van Ness Video Wall

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Video Artwork Concept

Barakeh's stop-motion animation centers on San Francisco's relationship to the discourse of war via references spanning the Spanish conquests of the Americas, WWII military bases, and military technological innovation. The plot consists of two main scenes: an trip to the past from San Francisco to Alhambra to prevent the conquests of the Americas; and a trip to the future to California's deserts to prevent future wars shaped by the Bay Area's technological renaissance.

The first scene portrays fictional Queen Calafia—from Garci Rodriguez de Montalvo's 16th century novel *The Adventures of Esplendián*, and after whom California was named—traveling on a bridge to Alhambra, the Spanish seat of power, to fight an elite group of European colonial monarchs and conquistadors, whose portraits are sourced from works of arts and collections of local museums (de Young, Museum of Fine Arts). The first scene uses the bridge motif to symbolize the Bay Area's architectural, cultural, temporal, technological, and social justice bridging.

The second scene occurs in a desert landscape, referencing war technologies and weaponry fielded in Californian deserts. The action depicts hybrid characters from the first scene, conducting "human enhancement" and mutations on a large figure situated in the "predella" (Renaissance altarpiece) part of the composition to emphasize the rising importance of technology.

DRAFT IMAGES & REFERENCES

- 1- Scene 01
- 2- Scene 02
- 3- Scene 01 detail
- 4- Conquistador Pedro De Alvarado (c. 1485-1541) hybrid, sourced from an early 20th century painting by Tomás Povedano.
- 5- Standard of Ur War Panel, Sumerian artifact, currently in the British Museum Collection.



