THE STRANGEST FRUIT

VINCENT VALDEZ

DAVID WINTON BELL GALLERY, BROWN UNIVERSITY
Texas trees bear a strange fruit
Blood on the branches and blood at the root
Woman bodies mangling in the Southern breeze
Strange fruit hangin’ from the pecan trees

Forgotten scene of the gallant South
The judges’ eyes and the twisted mouth
Scent of desert rose sweet and fresh
Then the sudden smell of burnin’ flesh

Here is a fruit for the black birds to pluck
For the rains to gather, for the droughts to suck
For the sun to rot, for the tree to drop
Here is a strange and bitter crop

Adapted from the poem “Strange Fruit”
By Abel Meeropol (aka Lewis Allan)
Written in the mid to late 1930s
Vincent Valdez spent the mid-20th-century years of his life as a Chicano artist, painting a portrait of his own community and experiences. He has always been a storyteller, whether in his 1810–20 corpus of self-portraits, or in his most recent works. His career has been characterized by a consistent focus on themes of social justice and political critique.

Valdez’s works are often characterized by their use of space and composition. His use of light and shadow to create depth and perspective is particularly notable. His works often feature vibrant colors and detailed attention to texture, creating a sense of realism that is both visually striking and emotionally engaging.

Valdez’s art has been widely exhibited and is held in numerous public and private collections. His works have been included in numerous exhibitions and have been the subject of several books and articles.

In this new body of work, Valdez continues to explore themes of social justice and political critique, using his art as a means of expressing his own experiences and perspectives. His works remain a powerful testament to the power of art to convey meaningful and thought-provoking messages.

Valdez’s art is an inspiration to many, and his continued exploration of these themes is a testament to his dedication to using his art as a means of bringing attention to important social issues.