Activate: Market Street 14
Scattering Reflections
Jo-El Lopez

Sept. 23 - Oct. 28, 2017
75 & 77 Market St.

Opening Reception
September 23rd, 2017
7-10 pm at Gallery Aferro
73 Market Street

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Scattering Reflections
Curated by Jo-El Lopez
Agnes Deja, Jo-El Lopez, and Julie Ann Nagle

Presented by Gallery Aferro, with the support of RBH Group

Gallery Aferro’s “Activate: Market Street” is a year-round public art project transforming hundreds of linear feet of vacant storefront windows in Newark’s historic downtown district. Storefronts owned by RBH Group on Market Street between Washington and University Streets are activated with installations, films, animation, neon sculptures, kinetic and interactive art, and performative public programming from local, national and international artists. Supported by RBH Group, and created by Gallery Aferro, the project delivers arresting, unexpected, and highly memorable experiences with contemporary art directly to the public, whether residents, students, workers or first-time visitors.
Jo-El Lopez – Visual artist, arts advocate, and curator, uses the visual storytelling of traditional realism to convey complex commentary on the intersection of faith and modernity, the strength of family, and the multidimensional contemporary urban experience.

The decades the artist spent under the Pentecostal doctrine, a bold color palette informed by both abstract painting as well as older traditions of icon-making, all meld to create Lopez's kaleidoscopic worldview. His artworks reveal a restless, deeply engaged spirit closely observing not only his immediate environment, but the larger historic trajectory of national news.

Lopez asserts, “Originally, I studied business and fine arts at Kean University and at Montclair State University and was prepared for a life in the corporate arena. But my life’s journey has led me back to artmaking and my true passion. My work shows my voyage from that life choice to now.” In just four years since leaving the business world to focus on art, Lopez’s work has appeared regularly in tri-state area exhibitions at Gallery Aferro in Newark, NJ, The Bronx River Art Center, The Center for Contemporary Art Bedminster, NJ, Rutgers University in Newark, NJ, New Jersey City State University Gallery, Kean University, Rupert Raven Contemporary, and others.