

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ***Fatima Ronquillo: Arcadia***

**September 14 – September 21**

**ARTIST RECEPTION: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 5-7PM**

*Santa Fe Artist Fatima Ronquillo Explores Ancient and Invented Mythologies Through Classically Inspired Paintings*

Santa Fe, NM (May 1, 2018): Fatima Ronquillo's modern approach to classical painting is steeped with wry, wit and playful charm. The Santa Fe artist borrows techniques from European Old Masters while her imagery references folk art, Spanish Colonial art and other art historical traditions. Her cherub-like figures play out narratives that evoke humor, joy or sadness around themes derived from literature, theater, opera or myth. Ancient and invented mythologies inspire Ronquillo's latest work and upcoming exhibition *Arcadia*, opening September 14th at Meyer Gallery.

Ronquillo's new paintings illustrate stories of arriving in the fabled island of Arcadia where beasts, birds and foreign creatures await. The work is a continuation of Ronquillo's mythological themes that have informed her paintings over the past year; ancient texts such as Ovid's *Metamorphoses* provide endless inspiration for her magical realism. Subsequently, animals play an increasingly important role in Ronquillo's paintings as they are commonly used as symbols and metaphors in ancient myth. For *Arcadia*, Ronquillo paints exquisite landscape backdrops with mythological figures and fauna in her meticulous and imaginative style.

Ronquillo was born in the Philippines in 1976 and emigrated to the United States when she was ten years old. Her work is collected for private and public collections throughout the United States and internationally. Most recently she was chosen as a featured artist for the group exhibition, "GenNext: Future So Bright" at the Museum of Spanish Colonial Art in Santa Fe. The show highlights New Mexico artists who are rooted in tradition, but who are also introducing unique elements and interesting perspectives on colonial art through their work. "GenNext: Future So Bright" runs from May 4<sup>th</sup> to November 25<sup>th</sup>.

*Meyer Gallery, founded in 1967 by Darrel and Jeri Meyer, is located on historic Canyon Road and exhibits over fifty artists that range from emerging to well established. Meyer's classically inspired representational artists share a deep and influential connection to master painters and sculptors throughout art history while offering fresh perspectives on timeless genres such as landscape, still life and figurative painting, as well as bronze sculpture.*

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-Kelly Skeen, Arts Writer