

DATEBOOK PICKS

Best bets from Datebook's arts & entertainment critics and contributors

ART

Hyperreal works find beauty in back alleys

Just eight pictures comprise Mario Ayala's current exhibition, on view through June 22 at Ever Gold [Projects], but Ayala proves that an artist can do a lot of damage in that amount of space. The exhibition title, "Give a Dog a Bad Name and Hang Him," sets a playfully badass tone that permeates the show.

Airbrush technique, electric colors and glitter-dust finish ("auto flake," says the artist's caption) recall the tools and materials of custom car painters. Each work could be five, pictures crowded and layered with themes and memes of neighborhoods on the edge. They are stunning to look at, all but impossible to unravel.

The subjects are back-alley symbols of control: chain-link fences, padlocks, security cameras and growling guard dogs lovingly rendered in hyperreal style. These are set against saccharine images of sad-eyed pups and children trapped behind grates, an old "bruja" cloistered in a rock-walled room with a barred window.

— Charles Desmarais

Mario Ayala: Give a Dog a Bad Name and Hang Him: Noon-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday. Through June 22. Free. Ever Gold [Projects], 1275 Minnesota St., S.F. 415-254-1573. <https://evergoldprojects.com>



Ever Gold [Projects]