

**Virtual**   
**LAVENDER**  
 **Labels**

**JAY LYNN GOMEZ**  
**(American, b. 1986)**

*Portrait of an  
Affluent Family, 2013*

**Acrylic on magazine paper | 6 ½ x 9 in.**

Museum purchase from the Michel Roux Acquisition Fund, 2013.41



**Jay Lynn Gomez** is a trans woman born in the United States to undocumented Mexican immigrants who have since attained citizenship. Her work presents an intersectional view of people absent as subjects in the art historical canon and American society. Gomez centers the domestic laborers, specifically of Hispanic and Latinx descent, who have been unseen and undervalued in their contributions.

For two years, Gomez worked as a nanny in a home of a wealthy West Hollywood family. This experience is reflected in the imagery of living among such affluence. It draws attention to domestic duties through the straight hedges, a sparkling pool, and the comprehensive childcare often associated with working-class migrants. She centers the uncredited people and their labor who create the carefully crafted lifestyle of upper-class Americans.

*Portrait of an Affluent Family* is acrylic painted onto magazine paper, presenting a more authentic perspective of who belongs in the frame. It pastes in context where luxury and its contributing workforce are seen. Additionally, it allows reflection on what else might be missing from the "American Dream." Gomez demonstrates their legitimate and integral presence in the economy and cultural fabric of the United States.

How does this expand your understanding of the value of work?