

homework

Patricia Encarnación

Patricia Encarnación (she/they) is an Afro-Dominican interdisciplinary artist and scholar. Her work depicts the effects of colonialism on different socio-cultural strata within Afro-diasporic communities with a special focus on the Caribbean and Latin America. Encarnación explores being from the Caribbean by recontextualizing quotidian objects, landscapes, and aesthetics she was exposed to while growing up in her homeland.

Encarnación was a Van Lier fellow during her residency at Smack Mellon and has participated in multiple residencies such as MuseumsQuartier Vienna and Kovent Catalonia. Her work has been selected twice in The Centro Leon Jiménez Biennial (Santiago, DR), obtaining the prize bestowed by the city of Cádiz (Spain) for cultural immersion and a special invitation to a fellowship sponsored by the French consulate in Martinique as part of a Tropiques Atrium Caribbean art program. Recently Encarnación participated in the 2021-2022 cohort at the Silver Arts Project residency at the World Trade Center. Encarnación has exhibited her work in platforms such as Documenta 15th, Afro Syncretic at NYU; I am New Afro Latinx at MOLAA, CA; and Tribeca Festival. Besides being an actively exhibiting artist, Encarnación has also delved into curatorial practices in spaces such as ChaShama and alternative galleries and community spaces in NYC, Dominican Republic, and Miami.

Encarnación received an AAS degree in Illustration and Fine Arts from Altos de Chavon, the School of Design. This led her to receive a full-tuition scholarship to complete her BFA at Parsons, The New School of Design, New York, in 2014. She was recently awarded a full-tuition scholarship for the graduate program in the Caribbean Studies concentration in Museum Studies at NYU, where she graduated in 2022. Encarnación is currently based in The Bronx.

Her work serves as the counterpart to the quotidian, drawing inspiration from Caribbean aesthetics that she grew up familiar with in her homeland, the Dominican Republic. She employs this visual language to deconstruct, comprehend, and consistently challenge the notion of her identity through the lens of "Caribbeaness."

Being a Dominican female-identified person of color, she reflects back the prejudices ingrained by a society that imposed them on her during her upbringing. Her objective is to interrogate, analyze, and expose the origins of these biases through various disciplines. This endeavor enables her discourse to transcend the realms of politics and anthropology, embracing a humanistic and experiential approach.

She has reached the conclusion that her desire to explore the "unknown" historical and psychological underpinnings of her existence and its roots lies within the intricacies of tropical aesthetics, decolonization practices, and the dismantling of imposed social roles and histories.

As an interdisciplinary artist and scholar, she delves into these concepts using diverse mediums, including ceramics, photography, and video. Through these artistic avenues, she investigates multiple perspectives surrounding Caribbean quotidian objects, landscapes, and bodies.

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Julián Chams

Born and raised in Barranquilla, Colombia with a degree from the Kansas City Art Institute, Chams works within multiple mediums including photography, painting and sculpture. The artist shows a predilection throughout his work for time, nature, and the connection humanity has with both. Embracing a distinctive attitude emblematic of the Colombian Caribbean, the artist infuses their work, even when addressing weightier subjects, with humor and levity, evoking a captivating fusion of depth and lightheartedness.

The artist's upbringing in Colombia has undeniably influenced their artistic practice. Their formative years in an urban environment juxtaposed with transformative journeys to rural and remote locations, such as upstate New York, the Amazon, and the Sierra Nevada, have left a profound imprint on their creative sensibilities. These immersive experiences, coupled with independent explorations, unveiled the intricate wonders and inherent enchantment that arise when nature is allowed to unfold unencumbered.

Simultaneously, the artist's interactions with individuals deeply connected to the land, complemented by their devoted study of herbalism and utilization of plants for medicinal and spiritual purposes, further enriched their artistic trajectory. The utilization of natural imagery within their work stems from a recognition of its universal language, often underestimated and overlooked. Nature's enigmatic qualities, perpetually evolving and transforming, offer an abstract mode of engaging with the world, free from specific identities and belongingness.

Returning to their Colombian roots, the artist's choice of colors, materials, and subject matter bears the imprint of their vibrant, playful, and warm cultural milieu. The country's expressive art and music scene, steeped in richness and vibrancy, occupy an integral space within their artistic identity.

His evocative creations serve as visual narratives that transcend boundaries, inviting viewers to contemplate their own relationship with the natural world and the profound beauty that surrounds us all. At times, his work delves into the aftermath, ruins, and lingering emptiness that follow an ending. His pieces serve as fossilized remnants of what once was. Whether it's the dissolution of a relationship, the conclusion of a voyage, or the aftermath of a catastrophic event, these artworks offer glimpses into another time or reality. Through a reconfiguration of familiar worldly elements, Chams creates a simultaneously surreal and recognizable vision, evoking a sense of profound and ethereal beauty.

His work has been shown individually and in group exhibitions at Wave Hill and AC Institute in New York; the XVI and XV Salon Regional de Artistas Caribe in Colombia, La Esquina and 50/50 in Kansas City, MO, and with us, homework, during our residency at Ace Hotel New York during New York Art Month in 2022.

He has also participated in residencies at BRIC and Wave Hill in New York.