

Structured Optimism

Sept 3rd - Oct 9th, 2022



Lina Puerta

Drawing from her experience as a Colombian-American, Lina Puerta's art examines the relationship between nature and the human-made, and engages in themes of food justice, xenophobia, hyper-consumerism, and ancestral knowledge. She creates mixed media sculptures, installations, collages, handmade-paper paintings and wall hangings by combining a wide range of materials, from artificial plants and paper pulp to found, personal and recycled objects. Puerta was born in NJ, raised in Colombia and lives and works in NYC. She holds an MS in Art Education from CUNY and has exhibited internationally. She has been honored with numerous awards including the 2019/2020 Artist-in-Residence at the Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art and Storytelling in Harlem, 2017-NYFA Fellowship in Crafts/Sculpture, Fall 2017 Artist-in-Residency at the Joan Mitchell Center in New Orleans, the 2016 Dieu Donn  Workspace Residency, Artprize-8 Sustainability Award, 2015 Joan Mitchell Painters and Sculptors Grant, 2015 Kohler Arts Industry Residency (WI), 2013-14 Smack Mellon Art Studio Program among others. Exhibition venues include the Barns Art Center, The Sugarhill Children's Museum of Art and Storytelling, the Ford Foundation Gallery, The Museum of Biblical Art, El Museo del Barrio, Socrates Sculpture Park, Wave Hill and the Hunter East Harlem Gallery in New York City; 21C Museum Hotels in Louisville, KY and Bentonville, AR; Pi Artworks in London and Ponce+Robles in Spain. Puerta's work has been written about in Hyperallergic, The New York Times, The Brooklyn Rail, and Artnet News among others. Currently, the solo exhibition 'Lina Puerta: Accumulated Wisdom' at the New York Botanical Gardens in the Bronx, NY is on view through September 11th, 2022.

Standard Space

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Yvette Molina

Yvette Molina is a Mexican-American artist focused on the relationship between justice and caring. Her work incorporates processional banners, ritual, storytelling, costumes, action figures, collage, and painting. Current projects include New Pantheon, a series of reimagined gods born to confront the world's challenges, and Big Bang Votive, a communal storytelling project where participants are invited to share a personal story of love or delight. Yvette memorializes each story with a painted symbol on a starry backdrop to create an expanding constellation of our collective joy and love. Yvette has exhibited across the US and internationally at venues such as the Stockholm Fringe Festival, the American Embassies in Uruguay and Latvia, the Visual Art Center of New Jersey, Arsenal Contemporary, NADA Art Fair, Johansson Projects, and the Legion of Honor and de Young Museums of California as an AIR awardee. Other residency fellowships include Edward F. Albee Foundation, Vermont Studio Center, Jentel Foundation, and UC Berkeley Worth Ryder Gallery. Born in Kansas City, Yvette currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

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Elan Cadiz

Elan Cadiz is an interdisciplinary North American Visual Artist that deconstructs and balances her intersectionality through her projects. Her art and practice are grounded in the documentation of her personal narrative through the use of historical imagery and the domestic. Cadiz's art speaks to the boundless potential in humanity and the ways our pasts can inform our future for the better. Elan's goal is to have viewers question their condition(s) in ways that bring about helpful inner inquiry and thoughtful discussion. Elan Cadiz graduated from City College of New York with a BA in Studio Art and received a MFA Fine Arts degree from the School of Visual Arts where she was awarded the SVA Merit Scholarship, Paul Rhodes Memorial Award and the Martha Trevor Award. Cadiz has been commissioned by the Studio Museum in Harlem, El Museo de Barrio, Art in Flux Harlem, Mount Vernon Hotel Museum and more. She was one of the first Sustainable Arts Foundation AIRspace Parent Artist Resident at Abrons Art Center and her An American Family Album series was featured in VOGUE. Her artworks can also be found in New American Paintings magazine, issue #146 and #153. Elan Cadiz is currently represented by Atim Annette Oton of Calabar Gallery, Harlem, NYC.

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Katarra Peterson

Katarra LaRae Peterson (b. 1986, Vallejo, CA) is a mixed-media artist with a focus on abstraction and landscape. Her use of kanekalon hair in recent paintings and performances engages history, radical imagination and joy as resistance through the lens of Black womxnhood. Her passion for color underpins the work in an effort to access our collective emotional response to chroma. . Peterson earned her BS from Skidmore College before withdrawing from RISD's MFA program to pursue art independently. She has since exhibited work internationally in Finland, Germany, and Uganda, as well as at museums and institutions across the United States. She lives and works in The Bronx, NY.

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