

GO FIGURE!

MULTICULTURAL ASPECTS OF HUMAN FORM IN ART

SELECTIONS FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION

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LOWE ART MUSEUM  
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI  
CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA



Carlos Betancourt, United States (born Puerto Rico), b. 1966  
*Yellow Blossoms by Mendieta's Ceiba*, 2001  
 color photograph on vinyl, 120 x 145"  
 Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Duke, 2002.22

Betancourt imbues his art with the spiritual essence of the Afro-Caribbean cultures, which he celebrates and with which he identifies. By printing encryptions on his own flesh, he suggests ritualistic scarification and tattooing related to tribal concepts of beautification and protection. The writing weaves original prose with ancient translations drawn from specific mythologies. The dusting, sprinkling, scattering, smudging, and painting of his body with substances, both organic and inorganic, helps establish a magical milieu that recalls tribal rituals and potent accretions associated with shamans and medicine men, whose personae the artist ceremonially assumes.



Albert Chong, United States  
*Self-portrait with F*  
 gelatin silver print  
 Museum purchase

Jamaican-born Albert Chong's work, influenced by his ancestors, and photography. His imagery is particularly powerful, often depicting cradles, eggs, and spirals, which are central to Rastafarianism and its sacred rituals.

Note: Rastafarianism is a religious movement that originated in Jamaica in the late 1930s and is based on the teachings of Haile Selassie I, the true Zion.

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