

Political Winter Redux



Molloy College Art Gallery

POLITICAL WINTER REDUX

Curated by Yolande Trincere

Carlos Betancourt

Sasha Bezzubov

Noah Fischer

Matthew Fisher

Josh Garrett

Evan Reehl Ryer

Vee Speers

MOLLOY COLLEGE ART GALLERY
1000 HEMPSTEAD AVE
ROCKVILLE CENTRE NY 11570

Carlos Betancourt

Miami-based artist Carlos Betancourt was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico and moved to Miami in 1981. He has had solo exhibitions at Diana Lowenstein Fine Art, Miami, Florida; Remy Toledo, New York, New York; and Museo de las Americas, San Juan, Puerto Rico and participated in group exhibitions at Quadrennial of Dusseldorf, Germany; Art Basel Miami Beach, Florida; Remy Toledo Gallery, New York, New York; MACO Art Fair, Mexico City, Mexico; and Essences 8, Universitat da Valencia, Spain.

"I assemble the vision of all that I am motivated and enthused by in an effort to colonize my identity and that of others as an attempt to create images liberated of the polemics of reason and attractive under the realms of their secrets."

"The nature and aesthetic quality of documenting and collecting is a significant influence in my artwork, while exploring an endemic need of establishing and organizing the territories, spaces and cultures that I have possessed or have attempted to conquer and occupy visually, intellectually and emotionally. "

"In a challenge to conquer identity, I play remorselessly with the paradoxes of a global, self influenced by infinite forces such as travel, Pop and Kitsch culture, heritage, Post-modernism, Contemporary art and the constant access to information. The resulting artwork may include clashes of opposites as well as forceful unions that challenge logic yet propose beauty and sense beyond reason."

He has been awarded the Florida Department of State Millennium Cultural Recognition Award, a National Endowment for the Arts Grant and the Miami Beach Arts Council Grant. His work is in the collections of the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; The Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art, Florida; the Lowe Art Museum, Miami, Florida and the Museum of Latin American Art in California. He is the co-founder of 801 Projects, an arts studio center that provides studio space for visual artists based in Miami.



Re-collections VI, print on canvas, 45" x 45", 2008

POLITICAL WINTER REDUX

Today's world is fraught with issues that ultimately will change our world. Political Winter Redux explores political issues that have been characterized in the political arena of 2008, including global warming, universal poverty, war, natural and unnatural disasters, abuses of all kinds, human sexuality, historical precedence's, racism, universality, and multiculturalism exhibited throughout the world. Friendship, love, hate, hope and the future of our country is in the foreground of these works.

Throughout history, the artist has been thought of as a shaman, someone who has defined these issues visually through imagery. It is with the artist that personal as well as universal themes emerge. Along with this comes the responsibility of trying to change the world by notating the problems or bring to the forefront the foibles of society.

Artists transform materials into art that may or may not have a relatable message, but all art is political due to its need to convey a broad message to the viewer. From Paleolithic cave paintings through to the graffiti-filled walls of the urban landscape, political art exists everywhere because all art is a message-driven expression.

These artists were chosen because of their international and multicultural statements and include artists that use collage, film, photography, painting, drawing, photocollage and assemblage as their vehicles.

Matthew Fisher's paintings appear to be historical in nature but on closer inspection have objects and images that are juxtaposed in the most unusual way. His portraits have a 19th century look but their surroundings may include a candle, a cow, an owl and other objects that seem to try to confuse yet intrigue the viewer.

Noah Fischer's "inked" film plates are an exploration into the mob of today and the passionate beliefs seen in the groups that gather systematically to protest the inequities in the world today. His claustrophobic images seem to scream with their tight, deformed-like essence.

Vee Speers has presented us a selection from the "Birthday Party" an unusual presentation where the happy, carefree life of children is seen in its reality, where war, death and violence are an everyday occurrence. Her beautiful hand-colored photographs with their paleness allude to a quiet simplicity only to be juxtaposed by their explosive directness.

Carlos Betancourt's large photocollaged images are a riot of color and ethnicities within their joyous designs. The images appear to be static but revel in the color of the clothes and objects that are presented as a complicated design of a gift to the viewer. He presents the world's multicultural reality through the "armies" that are represented in his work.

Evan Rheel Ryer explores the intricacies of the world of collage. His technique is brought to the extreme with his thin paper slivers that are obsessively placed in a seemingly organized presentation. However, Ryer's work is far from this, with its underlying issues of sexuality and its accessibility in today's world.

Josh Garrett's paintings are simple in design; yet appear to be guardedly religious in their presentation. The large black and red crosses on burnished steel look as if they were burnt or incinerated, a recurring trend in his latest minimalist work, where "truth" rises from the ashes like a Phoenix.

Sasha Bezzubov presents his views of nature's catastrophic moments with the aftermath of tsunamis, earthquakes and wildfires. In his large-scale photographs, there is an eerie stillness and peace that take us in with their beautiful color and pattern while in reality are horrific destruction.

Yolande Trincere, Ph.D
Director,
Molloy College Art Gallery

Yolande Trincere, Ph.D., is the Director of the Molloy College Art Gallery and Associate Professor of Art History; Visiting Assistant Professor in the Graduate program of Arts and Cultural Management at Pratt Institute and is researching the Roy Lichtenstein Catalogue Raisonné for the Roy Lichtenstein Foundation.



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