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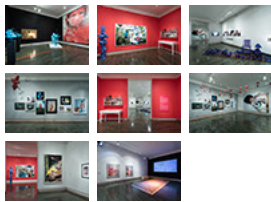


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Current Past

Carlos Betancourt: 'Re-Collections'



November 18, 2015 - April 17, 2016

What would an exhibition of the things one treasures look like? In Carlos Betancourt: Re-collections, the artist recycles the past and celebrates its eternal renewal in the present. The themes of Betancourt are the spiritual vitality and the intercultural poetics of people, places, materials and objects. It combines and transforms these elements into contemporary offerings that link the material world with the immateriality of time, sensations and memory. The mixed media works of the artist embody and expound many of the themes prevalent in contemporary art of the last thirty years -the body and nature, collection and exhibition, beauty and popular culture, spirituality and identity, memory and history- and some less common themes, such as the family and the concept of home.

Download essay by guest curator
Cheryl Hartup

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Betancourt's personal journey, physical, emotional and intellectual, is the creative force that drives his work. Born and raised in Puerto Rico to Cuban parents and born and raised in Puerto Rico, he developed a love for nature and a passionate interest in the mix of cultures and traditions and the Taino past of the island. Like Puerto Rico, Betancourt's work is a syncretic juxtaposition of layers of information that have as a backdrop the intensity of the exuberant tropics. As a teenager, he moved to Miami, where he appreciated the convergence of diverse architectural and design styles, and participated in the predominant as well as countercultural artistic currents of Miami Beach in the 1980s and 1990s. These experiences influenced the free forms of Betancourt, in those that intermingle high culture with mass culture.

Carlos Betancourt: Re-collections, is composed of works carried out from 2001 to 2015 and occupies two galleries. In the inner courtyard and galleries on the first floor, Betancourt creates synchronic relationships within and between cultures through the intermingling of the life-giving forces of the body, spirit, nature and object. On the second floor, the artist continues to show how the past resides in material objects that release their hidden meanings when approached from an imaginative and sensual perspective. Objects produced in mass and unique objects, and their associated memories, participate in a banquet of infinite metamorphosis.

Cheryl Hartup / Guest Curator

Betancourt's work is in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the National Portrait Gallery in Washington DC, the New Orleans Museum of Art and museums in Spain, California, Florida and Puerto Rico. Many of the works in these collections are duplicates and, in some cases, the curator asked the artist to loan the same image, or a similar work, for purposes of feasibility of the exhibition. We extend a special thanks to the architect Alberto Latorre, director of

November 18, 2015 - April 17, 2016

What would an exhibition of the things you look like? In Carlos Betancourt: Re-Collections, the artist recycles the past and celebrates its eternal renewal in the present. Betancourt's subjects are the spiritual aliveness and cross-cultural poetics of people, places, materials and objects. I have combined and transforms these elements into modern-day offerings that link the material world and immaterial time, sensation and memory. The artist's mixed media works and many of the prevalent themes in contemporary art of the last thirty years - the body and nature, collection and display, beauty and popular culture, spirituality and identity, memory and history - and some less common subjects like family, and the concept of home.

Betancourt's personal journey - physical, emotional, and intellectual - is the creative force behind his work. Born and raised in Puerto Rico to Cuban parents, I have developed a love for nature, and a passionate interest in the mixing of cultures and traditions and the island's Taino past. Like Puerto Rico, Betancourt's work is a syncretic layering of information against the intensity of the lush tropics. As a teenager, I moved to Miami where I saw the convergence of diverse architectural and design styles, and participated in Miami Beach's mainstream and underground art scene in the 1980s and 1990s. These experiences influenced Betancourt's free-spirited forms that mix high and low culture. The artist travels extensively, and although Miami is his home, he regularly visits "The Enchanted Island" to make work.

Carlos Betancourt: Re-Collections features works made from 2001 to 2015, and it is located on two floors. In the inner courtyard and first floor galleries, Betancourt creates synchronic relations within and across cultures by commingling the vitalizing forces of body, spirit, nature and object. On the second floor, the artist continues to show how the past resides in material things that release their hidden meanings when encountered imaginatively and sensuously. Mass-produced and unique objects, and their related memories, participate in a feast of infinite metamorphosis.

Cheryl Hartup / Guest Curator

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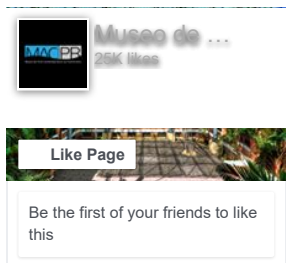
Carlos Betancourt: Re-collections has been made possible in part thanks to the sponsorship of the Tourism Company of Puerto Rico, Lino Hernandez and supermarkets Econo, Magic Transport, Lamar Advertising, Caribe Hilton and The Hilton Plaza Condado, Trafon Group, WIPR, Bodegar, Coca-Cola Puerto Rico Bottlers, PMM Contrastistas y Libros AC. A special thanks to Walter Otero and WOCA Gallery for all their collaboration to make this project concrete.

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