

Lina Puerta

Workspace Program 2016

Lina Puerta's work examines the relationship between human and natural life, and the tensions that often arise between our natural environment and our constructed urban landscape. Her works blend aspects of the human world and the natural, observing the relationship between the two.

During her residency at Dieu Donn e, Puerta worked closely with Studio Collaborator Amy Jacobs to create a series of five tapestries in addition to three-dimensional sculptures. Through experimental and controlled manipulation of the physical qualities of the pulp, the artist fully embraced the organic and spontaneous aspects of working in paper – while directly referencing and re-using certain patterns and imagery throughout her body of work.

Puerta incorporated numerous processes and techniques in these unique pieces, including free hand pulp painting using brushes and squeeze bottles, applying pulp paint through plastic stencils and lace, and layering blowouts using plastic, fabric and artificial plants, embedding and collage. She used a wide variety of found objects and recycled materials in all of her works including: micro beads, trims, sequined fabrics, mesh, faux fur, chains, lace, feathers, artificial plants, velvet ribbon, mesh, broken jewelry, netting, leather scraps and found insect wings and snakes from her home in Colombia. Many collage elements extended beyond the traditional rectangle or shaped sheet of paper, reaching from the edge and pushing through and out of the pulp. Cotton, translucent abaca and linen fibers were used in all works, which were colored through aqueous dispersed and raw pigments. Each of the pulp's colors were mixed and matched according to color swatches examined before each studio day.

Puerta's three-dimensional works were made using methyl cellulose glue which adhered cotton, linen and abaca pulp as well as molding plain, painted or patterned wet pressed sheets around wire baskets and shaped foam armatures. These smaller works incorporated embedded and collage elements of found objects in the same fashion as her two-dimensional works.

Artist Statement forthcoming



TOP: *Untitled (Black with Insect Wings-Tapestries Series)*, 2016, Cotton and linen pulp, lace, sequins, appliqu es, velvet ribbon, feathers, gouache and found insect wings. 41 x 24 inches.

БОТТОМ: *Pink/Purple/Green (Tile Fragments Series)*, 2016, Polystyrene, cotton and linen handmade papers, lace, fake fur and trims, Dimensions variable.



About the Artist

Lina Puerta lives and works in New York City. She holds an MS in Art Education from Queens College/CUNY and is recipient of several residencies and grants including: the Artprize-8 Sustainability Award, 2015 Joan Mitchell Painters and Sculptors Grant, 2015 Kohler Arts Industry Residency (WI), 2014-15 Keyholder Residency at the Lower East Side Printshop, 2013-14 Smack Mellon Art Studio Program, 2014 Materials for the Arts, 2013 Wave Hill Winter Workspace and the 2010 Emerging Artist Fellowship at Socrates Sculpture Park in New York. The artist has been included in exhibitions at The Museum of Biblical Art, El Museo del Barrio, Socrates Sculpture Park, Wave Hill, Geary Contemporary, NYC and Pi-Artworks in London. Puerta's work has also featured in Hyperallergic, The New York Times, Wilder Quarterly, Sculpture Magazine and Artnet News, among others. www.linapuerta.net

About Dieu Donn 

Dieu Donn  is a leading cultural institution dedicated to serving established and emerging artists through the collaborative creation of contemporary art using the process of hand papermaking.

About the Workspace Program

Established in 1990, the Workspace Program offers annual residencies to New York State emerging artists to create new work in handmade paper. The primary goals of this program are to encourage emerging artists to explore the creative possibilities of handmade paper and to develop this art form through a process of collaboration and experimentation. The Workspace Program is presented to the public through an annual exhibition of works produced in this residency program, as well as through print, digital, and online formats. For more information about the Workspace Program, or to learn how to apply, visit www.dieudonne.org.

Support

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Above: Lina Puerta working in the Dieu Donn  studio with Studio Collaborator Amy Jacobs, Summer 2016.



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