

Estelle Maisonett
Historical Abyss
Mixed Media on Panel
52" x 48" x 2"
2022

48 New York Times low relief photo transfers of periodicals from 1886-1978 spanning the colonization of Puerto Rico from Spain and the United States. The center contains the cover of "Pa'lante" by The Young Lords, Vol 3 number 9. It displays Pedro Albizu Campos, founder of the Nationalist Party for Puerto Rican independence and a distant relative of mine. The text has a slight relief and can only be read if the viewer shifts their body side to side. The work speaks to the erasure of Puerto Rican history and the struggle of accessing these historical events of liberation. Topics include: Puerto Rican sterilization, illegal radiation testing, industrialization of the sugar cane industry, Lolita Lebrón, the Puerto Rican nationalist attempted assassination of Harry S. Truman, The Bronx is Burning Era and more.

Estelle Maisonett
Tracing Roots
Mixed Media on Panel
93" x 82" x 5"
2022

Life-size assemblage of my parents embracing on a plush couch in our Bronx apartment. The clothing is created by hand, with a slight relief provided by sculpted foam and cotton stuffing. A shelf displays three books on the Bronx burning era, Puerto Rican liberation and Mexican-American history. A monoprint of a say no evil monkey sculpture sits atop the books, an erased hand monoprint, a Taino sculpture of "a captive made with ancestral bone" sold at a 2022 Christie's auction, and a Memorial Guadalupe candle adjacent to them. My father wears a Yale hat with a sticker reading "legacy edition" and an N vinyl over the 'Y' logo for the NY Yankees. He holds a Yale pamphlet titled "Action Required" from my first year group exhibition. My mother wears a Día de los Muertos mask and her evil eye earring.

In My Hood Series: The three rectangular sculptures are made of 24 gauge galvanized steel air ducts found in the New York Life Insurance Company building on 51 Madison Avenue where Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP, is currently housed. The material was originally discarded due to major renovations to the infrastructure of the facility. Each sculpture utilizes a monotype printmaking process developed by the artist to transfer photographs they've taken of buildings facing gentrification within their own neighborhoods. The neighborhoods displayed act as an archive of spaces in constant flux as well as a document of neighborhoods the artist and their family has been priced out of.

Estelle Maisonett
A Queen in Queens
Print on Steel
14 x 17 x 6"
2023

A Queen in Queens features the neighborhood the artist currently resides in, on the corner of Park Lane S and Myrtle in Richmond Hill, Queens. Further from public transportation and access to the city, the artist documents home before inevitable change occurs.

Estelle Maisonett
SOS, BX, NY
Print on Steel
18 x 8 x 8"
2023

The sculpture features monotypes of buildings in the Mott Haven neighborhood of the South Bronx, a bike ride away from Harlem. The borough is currently facing mass luxury development with "affordable housing" rent prices 150% above the median salary. The sculpture highlights construction barricades with promotional advertisements placed across the street from New York City Housing authority tenants where the artist worked from 2013-2018 and the artist's mother grew up from 1976-1990.

Estelle Maisonett
Dyckman, NY
Print on Steel
28.5 x 8.5 x 8”
2023

The *Dyckman, NY* sculpture features monotypes of an uptown building on the corner of 200 Street and Dyckman, a historically immigrant neighborhood where local businesses have been pushed out by larger corporate companies. The neighborhood houses a large Dominican and European immigrant community historically divided by Broadway. As rent prices in Manhattan continue to rise and young blue collar workers move further uptown, this neighborhood has fallen victim to high rates of displacement for renters and non-home owners. The artist lived in this neighborhood from 2015-2019.

Estelle Maisonett
Just like grandma used to make em’
oil, resin, fabric, beaded bracelet, Iron range burner grate and pastel on wooden shelf
24 x 12 x 12”
2023

Estelle Maisonett
Ventana de Luz
mixed media (wood, oil, acrylic, foam, fabric, vinyl and paper) on panel
132 x 49 x 3”
2023

A commemorative portrait of my grandmother Luz (Light) who sold pasteles, coquito, limbe, and icy’s from her window in Hunts Point, Bronx, NY. The panel is made of wooden bricks shaped from photographs of my grandmother's building. The objects (coquito bottle, ash tray, planter) and window gate are from photographs of her home. Images of my own hands are pasted onto three dimensional wood carvings which pull up a bucket that reads “Dinero Aqui.” During the exhibition viewers began to toss money inside of it. The light post is embedded with silver transfer images of buildings my family and I have lived in. *Ventana de Luz* (window of light) pays homage to mi abuelita, a light in my life—and a window into my cultural/ancestral identity.

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