

AS 305



DOSSIER: Three Powers
MAHARA+CO | ART SPACE 305

Milixa Morón - Antonio Castillo - Marco Caridad

Milixa Moron, Antonio Castillo, Marco Caridad.

Allegories of the Real and the Supernatural

By Felix Suazo

[The numinous] "can only be evoked, awakened in the mind ..."

"It is the emotion of a creature, submerged and overwhelmed by its own nothingness in contrast to that which is supreme above all creatures."

Rudolf Otto

Immersed in an unstable reality, the contemporary subject is thrown out in the open. Hungry for answers, he seeks discernment in nature and in myths. There he finds the ineffable keys to his past and the inextricable augury of the future. But this struggle between opacity and lucidity is always a personal challenge, in which each person is the protagonist of his own drama on the stage of life.

Three Latino artists living in the USA explore the meaning of beliefs and their personal implication. Milixa Morón (Barquisimeto, 1977), Antonio Castillo (Santiago, 1991) and Marco Caridad (Maracaibo, 1985) bring their works together in the group exhibition "Three Powers", where each of them breaks down significant aspects of identity, both individual and collective. What gives unity to their approaches are their spiritual concerns, in which elements associated with nature, sexuality and myths intersect.

Painter and drawer, Milixa Morón recreates in her work some of the popular beliefs from her native land. The legend of María Lionza –protector deity of waters, nature and love–, as well as the Diablos Danzantes de Yare –local version of the Corpus Christi festivity–, represent for her the link with her tradition of origin. Femininity, myths and nature delineate her research, to which are added elements of everyday life and concerns of her condition as a mother, wife and artist. Hence, her portraits often personify the image of her heroines. Her work is also characterized by her constant evocations of the aquatic world, both in domestic life and in the spiritual sense.

Antonio Castillo gives a personal significance to the pyromantic celebrations of San Juan Bautista and the advent of the winter solstice in the southern hemisphere. In Chile, his country of origin, it is a magical moment in which the earthly and the celestial come into contact, bonfires are made as a sign of purification and wishes are burned. His paintings are part of a

promising ritual, sustained in a probabilistic grid where images and premonitions are concatenated. These works are compositions elaborated from the experiential and the non-verbalizable, containing diverse elements –linear reiterations, knots, chains, looping traces, words–, in which the reciprocal pulsation of longings and the happiness received can be seen.

Marco Caridad takes up the Mayan myth of the twin brothers, who defeated the lords of the underworld, died in the fire and were reincarnated as the sun and the moon. From this premise, the artist addresses the conflict of the binary of gender and gender identity. In his work, images and words form a counterpoint between the opposite and the complementary. The questions and their possible answers cover different areas of the author's experience, related to his pre-Hispanic ancestors, his condition as a migrant and his sexual affinity. Using digital media, video and performance, the artist stages the question of dualism and self-affirmation. In his case, the luminescent tremor of a candle flame is the only oracle in the midst of uncertainty.

In the "Three Powers" project, Milixa Morón, Antonio Castillo and Marco Caridad offer their own version of the beliefs that stimulate and sustain them. Each one has his own altar, outside the normative faith and away from the blind devotion to a single entity, but they have in common the immeasurable force of the spiritual. The triad they form evokes sacred geometry and the power of ritual as a creative incentive.

They are driven by magic; that which introduces the supernatural into the real, which interpolates the time of the gods into the finitude of human aspirations and which –in the end– makes existence a prodigy. Nothing is as magical as life manifesting itself in its material and symbolic fullness. Nothing is as revealing as the creative imagination when it shows the invisible, unveils the hidden and makes the unintelligible legible.

March, 2023

Three Powers

Milixa Morón



1. 2022. "The dancing spirits". Mixed media/watercolor paper. 60 x 40 in.

In Milixa's community, there is a tradition of dressing up like monsters and performing a ritual dance to ward off evil. Her painting portrays "The dancing spirits" participating in this tradition, and through it, Milixa expresses her beliefs and identity.

Milixa's artwork captures the essence of the phrase "Holy water!" which highlights the significance of something when it is scarce, particularly something as fundamental as water. The struggle for access to clean water in Latin America is a daily reality, and people can truly appreciate its value when it becomes available. In her piece, Milixa portrays her father taking a bath using the water he was able to collect, demonstrating his optimistic outlook on life despite limited resources.

Three Powers

Milixa Morón



2. 2022. "Holy water" Mixed media on fabriano paper. 60 X 40 in

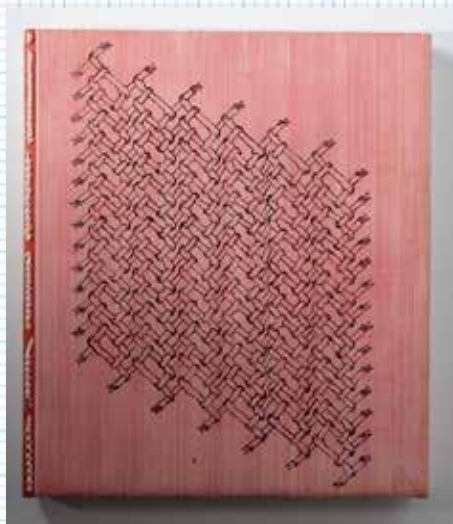
3. 2022. "Yara". Charcoal/fabriano paper. 24 X 35 in

Milixa's artwork "Yara," portrays the goddess of nature, also known as María Lionza, who is a mythological figure with roots in reality as the daughter of a Cacique, or native Indian chief. This piece is part of Milixa's self-portrait series and serves as an allegory for her connection to nature and the spiritual world.

Three Powers

Antonio Castillo

Antonio is a contemporary artist who presents small and medium format works that directly reference the night of San Juan and the winter solstice in the southern hemisphere. Through a compilation of images, textures, and materialities, Antonio's five paintings and two volumes offer his unique perspective on the experience of desire and mysticism on these magical dates.



11. 2020-2021 "permutation in the order of the factors 1". Acrylic on canvas. 16x14 "
12. 2020-2021 "permutation in the order of the factors 2". Acrylic on canvas. 16x14 "
13. 2020-2021 "permutation in the order of the factors 4". Acrylic on canvas. 16x14 "
14. 2020-2021 "permutation in the order of the factors 4". Acrylic on canvas. 16x14 "

Three Powers

Antonio Castillo



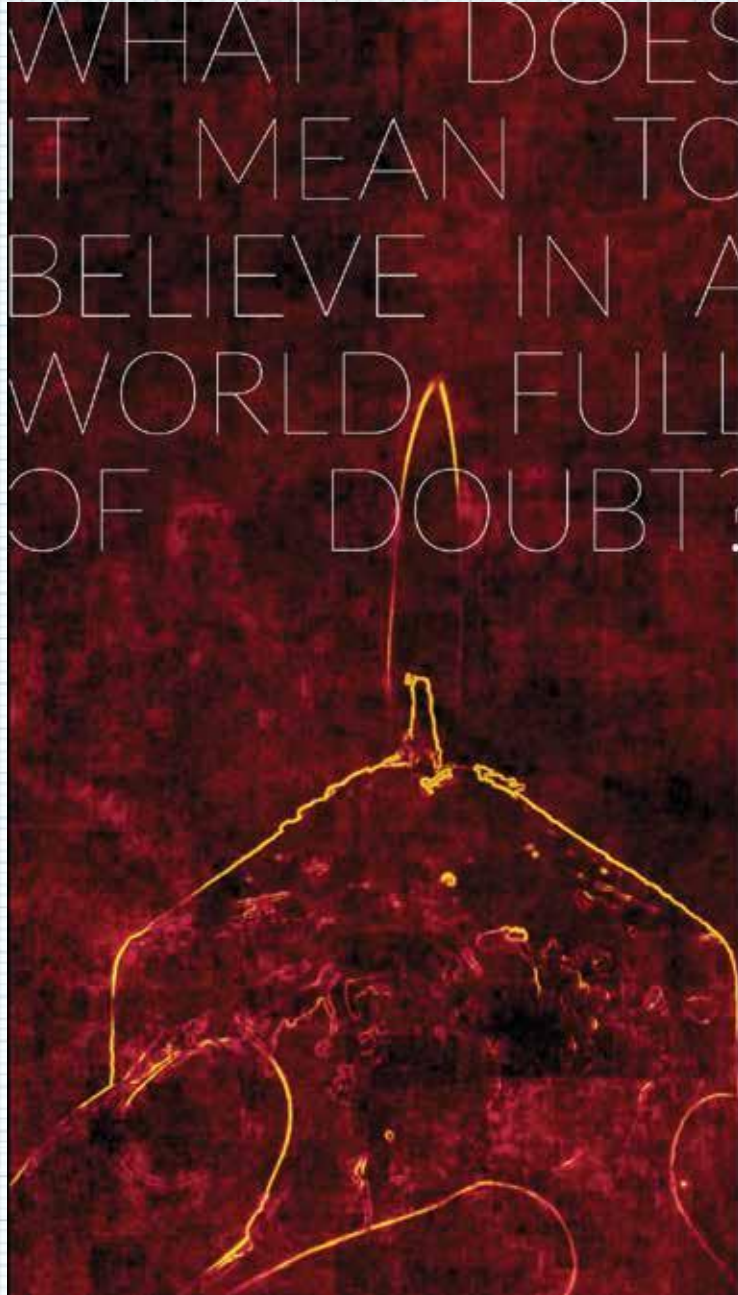
15. 2020-2021 "permutation in the order of the factors 5". Acrylic on canvas. 16x14 "

16. 2021. "Give and take". chipboard, acrylic paint, metal chains and letters. 50x20x2 "

17. 2020. "Wild knot". Rubber, metal and acrylic paint. 20x10x1 "

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Marco Caridad



"BELIEVES" is a profoundly personal video art piece that invites viewers to meditate on their spiritual journey and beliefs, particularly in Latin society, where Catholicism and other folkloric religions are prevalent. As a queer artist who grew up in a Catholic family, the artist uses the candle as a powerful symbol to explore the complexities of spirituality and religious belief. The flickering flame and abstracted images represent the fragility of faith in the face of uncertainty. Through this piece, the artist hopes to spark a dialogue around the many questions we confront when accepting who we are.



5. 2023. "Believes." 3 minutes self-portrait video performance holding a candle. 1080"x1920.
<https://vimeo.com/marcocaridad/believes>

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Marco Caridad

These series of prints created by Marco Caridad explores themes of self-acceptance, personal identity, and cultural heritage. On his research, the artist draws inspiration from studying the pre-Hispanic ancestors and their perspectives on gender and sexuality. The representation of two men as world creators in the Popol Vuh resonated with him as a powerful affirmation of his identity.



6. 2023. "Magic twins" AP, Metal. Screen-printing on metallic paper. 16"x22"
7. 2023. "Magic twins" AP, Water. Screen-printing on paper. 16"x22"
8. 2023. "Magic twins" AP, Fire. Screen-printing on paper. 16"x22"
9. 2023. "Magic twins" AP, Earth. Screen-printing on paper. 16"x22"
10. 2023. "Magic twins" AP, Wood. Screen-printing on paper. 16"x22"

Three Powers

CV.

MILIXA MORÓN. (1977. Valencia, Venezuela).
Lives and works in Miami, FL

Studies

2013 Program Scuola Libera del nudo at Accademia del Belle Arti di Firenze.
2009 Angel Academy of Art, Florence-Italy.
2006 Academy of Realist Art, Toronto-Canada.
2003 Giovanni Battista Scalabrini Academy of art, Valencia-Venezuela.
1997 Graphic Design, Design Institute of Valencia-Venezuela.

Solo Shows

2022 'Origins' at MIFA Gallery, Miami USA. Curatorial advisor, Felix Suazo
2004; Realism and Tradition in the XXI century; French Alliance of Valencia-Venezuela.

Group Shows

2022 'Crossing Realities', MIFA Gallery. Miami-USA.
2021 'Women Painting. All over the World'. MEAM Museum. Barcelona-Spain.
2020 'Still', Sugarlift Gallery. New York-USA.
2020 'Human Dimensions in Latin American'. MIFA Gallery. Miami-USA.
2019 'Rhythmical Brushstrokes'. MIFA Gallery. Miami-USA.
2019 Art in Exile;. Coral Gables Museum. FL. USA.
2018 FACE Convention Faculty show. Miami.
2017 12th International Art Renewal Center Salon Competition. USA
2015 Spectrum Miami/Contemporary Art Projects USA. (Art Basel Week, Miami).
2015 Paul Fisher-Small Format Exhibition. Palm Beach.
2015 10th International Art Renewal Center Salon Competition. USA.
2014 9th International Art Renewal Center Salon Competition. USA.
2014 Still Life: Mundane to the Sublime. Haynes Galleries. Nashville-US.
2013 Figuratives 13. Fundació de les Arts i els Artistes. Barcelona-Spain.

2013 1st National Biennial of Drawings and Prints. Valencia-Venezuela.
2013 The art of drawing. Women painting women. New works, new directions. A treasure trove of small things. Haynes Galleries. Nashville-USA.
2013 Fantastic Art Festival. Fortezza da Basso. Florence-Italy.
2012 Show "Mirame" Artisti latinoamericani a Firenze. Palazzo Bastogi. Florence-Italy.
2012 Art Shangai, Latin American Pavillion.
2012 La donna nel mondo che cambia. Casa della cultura. Florence-Italy.
2011 7th International 2010/2011 ARC salon competition.
2011 The Artist's Magazine 28th Annual Art Competition for December issue.
2011 I viaggi in Italia di giovani artisti internazionali. Libreria de Servi. Florence.
2011 Two men show. & Stesso luogo-stesso;. La Boulangerie del Rifrullo. Florence.

Awards and Honors

6th, 7th 9th and 10th International ARC Salon Competition, finalist in still life, figure 2011, 14 and 2015
The Artist's Magazine Competition, Finalist in Still life and portrait. 2011
Art Renewal Center Salon Competition, Finalist-still life. 2010
Salon Hector Rojas Meza. Buscadores de Tesoros Prize. 2009
Salon Faber-Castell. Mention Faber-Castell. 2007
Salon Rafael Monasterios. 1st Prize. 2007
Philips Art Expressions for young talents. Honorable Mention. 2002
Salon of Bejuma. Town Hall of Bejuma Prize. 2001

<https://www.instagram.com/milixamoron/>

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CV.

ANTONIO CASTILLO (1991. Santiago, Chile)
Lives and work in Brooklyn, NY.

Studies:

2015 - Bachelor in Visual Arts with a Major in Sculpture, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.
2018 - Annual Program to Visual Artist. Taller Bloc, Chile.

Solo exhibitions:

2018 VENCEREMOS, Club Social de Artistas. Santiago, Chile.
2019 DE MENOS/ D-, Taller Bloc. Santiago de Chile.
2023 TECNO-BOSQUE, Galería NAC. Santiago, Chile. Sarai & Antonio Collective.

Group exhibitions:

2023 - LA CUERDA INFINITA, Palacio Pereira. Santiago, Chile.
2022 ¿Quién Dibujó así la Luna?. Galería Balmaceda 1215. Santiago, Chile.
2022 Of EARTH Of OURSELF. Random Access Gallery. Syracuse, New York.
2022 - BALMACEDA VISUAL- CONCURSO ARTE JOVEN PARA UN PAIS DESPIERTO. Museo de Arte Contemporáneo. Santiago, Chile.
2021 - BUEN AUGURIO. Instituto telearte. Santiago, Chile.
2021 - Concurso Artespacio Joven Itaú, Galería Artespacio. Santiago, Chile.
2020 - XIV Premio MAVI Arte Joven, Museo de Artes Visuales MAVI, Santiago,
2020 - LIFE OF MY LIFE, Curated by Omar López Chahoud. Vitrina Lab, Miami.
2020 - MUESTRA DE CONFIANZA, Taller Mecánico. Santiago, Chile.
2019 - CONTENCIÓN-CON TENSIÓN, Marisol San Jorge Studio. Córdoba, Argentina.
2019 - OPEN STUDIO, URRRA. Proyecto URRRA. Buenos Aires, Argentina.
2018 - EXPOBLOC 2018. Taller Bloc. Santiago, Chile.
2018 - TATAMI, Centro Cultural los Piñones. Santiago, Chile.

Scholarships and Awards:

2022. Selection for the Balmaceda Visual I: Young Contemporary Art Award, Museo de Artes Contemporáneo, Santiago, Chile.
2021 - Selection for the VI Premio Arte Joven: Young Contemporary Art Award, Artespacio Gallery, Santiago, Chile.
2020 - Beca capital Humano CORFO. Scholarship at Nucleo Escuela of postproduction design. Santiago, Chile.
2020 - Selection for the XIV Premio MAVI: Young Contemporary Art Award, Museo de Artes Visuales MAVI, Santiago, Chile.
2019 - Winner of Lazo- Cordillera Prize. Santiago, Chile.
2018 - Primer of Premio Municipalidad de Santiago Arte Joven XX (First prize Young Art Award). Centro Cultural Posada del Corregidor.
2018 - Beca Mori Taller Bloc. (Mori Prize for a scholarship at Artebloc foundation). Taller Bloc. Santiago, Chile

Residencies:

2022-2023 - Residency at Feirstein Graduate School .Brooklyn, .
2019 - Residency at Marisol San Jorge Studio. Córdoba, Argentina.
2019 - Beca Lazo-Cordillera, residency at URRRA. Buenos Aires, Argentina.
2018 - Annual Residency at Fundación ArteBloc. Santiago, Chile.
2014 - Residency studio in Casa Rodante Theatre. Santiago, Chile.

Academic experience:

2020-2023 - Sculpture Teacher. Antonio Castillo's Workshop. Santiago, Chile. 2014-2016 - Assistant Teacher: Workshop I. Teacher: Hernán Miranda. Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Santiago, Chile.
2014 - Assistant Teacher: Workshop I. Teacher: Jose Vielva. Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Santiago, Chile.

<https://www.antoniocastillocoo.com>
<https://www.instagram.com/aantoniocastilloo/>

Three Powers

CV.

MARCO CARIDAD (1985. Maracaibo, Venezuela).
Lives and works in Miami, FL

EDUCATION

2016 Master of Arts in Design and Media Management; The Art Institute, Miami
International University of Art & Design, Miami, FL
2008 Bachelor's Degree in Graphic Design; The University of Zulia, Maracaibo, Venezuela

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2022 Sin Estereotipos, Centro de Bellas Artes de Maracaibo, Venezuela (Curated by Yi Chin Hsieh)
2021 Sans Stereotypes, Miami International Fine Arts, Miami, FL (Curated by Yi Chin Hsieh)
2018 Sense..Feeling It or Not, Art & Design Gallery, Miami, FL (Curated by Rafa Muci)

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2022 X International Biennial of Contemporary Textile Art, Curated by Luis Valenzuela, Doral, FL
2022 Nature and History, Historic Bird Cages, Pinecrest Gardens, Miami, FL (Curated by Carola Bravo)
2022 TAKE THIS. TAKE ME, Doral Contemporary Art Museum, Miami, FL (Curated by Mahara Martinez)
2022 MOG II, Instituto Cultural de Mexico, Miami, FL (Curated by Adriana Torres)
2022 Perception, Miami International Fine Arts, Miami, FL (Curated by Yonyi Gutierrez)
2021 Gift Shop x The Wolfsonian, Wolfsonian-FIU, Miami, FL (Curated by Yi Chin Hsieh)
2021 Elements, Miami International Fine Art, Miami, FL (Curated by Felix Suazo)
2020 The Salon, ArtServe, Broward, FL (Curated by Sophie Bonet)
2020 Off Basel, Art & Design Gallery, Miami, FL (Curated by Anaibis Yero)

2019 Roots of an Identity, Miramar Cultural Center, Miramar, FL (Curated by Anaibis Yero)
2019 Reflect: Healing through Art, ArtServe, Fort Lauderdale, FL (Curated by Sophie Bonet)

LECTURES/PRESENTATIONS/WORKSHOPS

2022 Block printing, Instituto Cultural de Mexico, Miami, FL
2022 Art Talk, Art + Identity, Doral Contemporary Art Museum, Miami, FL
2020 Art Talk, Online Open House, Fountainhead Residency, Miami, FL
2020 Art Talk, Creative Zen, Fort Lauderdale & the Palm Beaches, Broward, FL
2019 Digital Design and Advance Digital Design Classes, Istituto Marangoni, Miami, FL

RESIDENCIES/GRANTS/AWARDS

2023 Printmaking Key Holder Fellowship, IS Projects, Miami, FL
2023 Loop Art Critique Fellowship, MUD Foundation, Miami, FL
2022 Knight Foundation Art + Research Center Fellowship, Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, FL
2021 Artist-In-Residency Fellowship (ARTCATION), Fort Lauderdale Art & Design Week, Broward, FL
2020 Miami-Dade Arts Support Program, Miami, FL

PUBLIC ART

2022 Nature and History, Historic Bird Cages, Pinecrest Gardens, Miami, FL (Curated by Carola Bravo)
2022 X International Biennial of Contemporary Textile Art, Curated by Luis Valenzuela, Doral, FL
2021 Abstract Hydrants, Commissioned by ArtServe, Broward, FL

<https://marcocaridad.com>

<https://www.instagram.com/marcocaridad/>

Three Powers

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING OPTIONS

As a closing activity of "Three Powers," we propose a festive event as the culmination of the exhibition and an opportunity for visitors to participate in a celebratory and interactive experience. The campfire will serve as a backdrop for dialogue, performativity, and a chance to let go of negative energies and welcome new desires and positive energies for the future. Together, we will be accompanied by Los Diablos de Yares's Dance, Afro-Latino drum music, and a video projection of a candle on the wall.

Other possible activations depending on the acceptance of the exhibition project include:

Artist Workshops: Led by participating artists, visitors can learn more about their techniques and creative processes. For example, Milixa could lead a drawing workshop, Marco could lead a performance, printmaking, or AI art workshop, and Antonio could lead an upcycle assembly sculpture workshop.

Performance Art: Marco Caridad could present a meditation performance that explores some of the exhibition's themes.

Guided Tours: Visitors can take guided tours led by artists to learn more about the works on display and the exhibition's themes.

This public program will provide a unique opportunity for visitors to engage with the exhibition.

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