

2017

Alma Pater

Censored by: Oficina del Historiador de la Ciudad

Reason: "Or one or the other, the good and the bad cannot exhibit together"

Series of pictures based on photos of Cuban politicians interacting with their children or grandchildren.

A version of Alma Pater made of graphite and gold leaf on cardboard is in the collection of a private museum in Louisville, KY, USA.

Learn more

The artist presents a series titled Alma Pater, a Latin grammatical anomaly. The original Latina expression, Alma Mater, meaning "nourishing mother" was used by Latin poets to refer to Rome. Currently, it is used to refer to one's university, in derivation of the slogan of the University of Bologna, the oldest Western university (dating from 1088), "Alma Mater Studiorum" (nourishing mother of the studies).

In classical antiquity, the expression was used to describe the mother-figure goddess, and later the Virgin Mary. Toirac's pieces reinterpret the standard imagery of the Madonna with child, by presenting well-known characters of Cuban History interacting with their children or grandchildren.

The self-serving impulse that politicians feel to lift a child in front of the cameras has a religious root: "Let the children come to me, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven". But the peculiarity of these images selected by the artist is in the filial relationship between the adult male and the child. Yes, these are masculine powerful public figures, but here their vulnerability is exposed: nobody is either all saint or all evil all the time.

Learn more



Pan American Art Projects

José Toirac: Waiting for the Right Time
Curated by Marily Zeitlin and Alejandro Machado
November 2019 - January 2020
www.panamericanart.com



Pan American Art Projects

José Toirac: Waiting for the Right Time
Curated by Marily Zeitlin and Alejandro Machado
November 2019 - January 2020
www.panamericanart.com



Pan American Art Projects

José Toirac: Waiting for the Right Time
Curated by Marily Zeitlin and Alejandro Machado
November 2019 - January 2020
www.panamericanart.com



Pan American Art Projects

José Toirac: Waiting for the Right Time
Curated by Marily Zeitlin and Alejandro Machado
November 2019 - January 2020
www.panamericanart.com

