

2016

Crisis a los 50, ninguna Historia es Inocente ***Mid-life Crises, no History is Innocent***

Censored by: Génesis Galerías de Arte

Reason: "We decided to remove the photos from the back of the works due to an ethical problem, those girls can be someone's sister or daughter."

Series of watercolors and drawings of objects that appear in erotic and pornographic photos from the web.

Many of the photos came from the University of Computer Science, an institution created to combat the aggression of imperialism. The photos uploaded to the internet by the students constituted a political scandal. The students involved were punished and some expelled from the university.

Works of this series have been exhibited in other cultural centers such as the Cuban Art Factory and the Casa de México, in Old Havana.

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Comparable with life, each of these works has two sides and various layers of significance. On one side we see a conventional watercolor, for example of a bottle of Cuban rum, but if you flip the work around (normally an unlikely act in art exhibition) you see a pornographic photo in which the subject of the watercolor appears, thus identifying the place of origin of the photo. It is a nude photo of a young Cuban woman playing with a bottle of Cuban rum in a risqué' position. The internet and digital photography have allowed the mass publication of private photos, and their public availability has facilitated and inspired this work.

Upon the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the revolution, there was a huge public scandal because of the sexual exploits of the students at the University of Computer Sciences, who were complaining the lack of equipment, and who uploaded intimate photos to the internet, which were made public in the Cuban underground.

The title also refers to the midlife crises, a cliché that touches men at the age of 50, the age of the artist when working on this series.

When you see the watercolors all together, the series can be perceived as a discourse on Cuban identity: you recognize common objects easily identified with life on the island. However, on the reverse, you discover the photos, which become a statement that Cuban youngsters, like people from any country, have sex, have vices, they smoke, they drink rum, and they need to believe in something more, like God or the Santería deities.

On one side we have a mosaic of the "Cuban", the public view; and on the other side we have the private, but at the same time universal image, as there is nothing more common than eroticism. Thus, no history stays neutral or is innocent: that is what this work is about.

THE FOLLOWING IMAGES ARE PART OF AN ART SERIES WITH EXPLICIT NUDITY.

Pan American Art Projects

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



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