

Toña Vegas

Matrizárea 21, 2019

Matrizárea 22, 2019

...and all manner of thing shall be well, 2020

My work reflects on the visibility of an underlying energetic matrix present in every distinct element of nature. By photographing shadows of trees and working with high contrast digital processes, the basic structure visible in patterns of bodies of water, the surface of extensions of sand, rock formations, the wings of dragonflies and even human skin surfaced.

In an ongoing exploration I focus on the traces left by the energetic interaction between elements of nature over time, which create intriguing drawings or codes everywhere around us. Through the perforation of materials such as paper or metal I transcribe these calligraphies, so they can be perceived in all its wonder. From another perspective I produce through oils and pigments, works that explore the process of sensation, accumulation and expression of energy in space.

I have developed a significant aspect of my work through site specific and three-dimensional large-scale pieces. By layering perforated and reflective metal with the presence of natural or artificial light, an inclusive space is created where the spectator is immersed into the installation and at the same time experiencing the broader context through it.

T.V.

Little Gidding (from Four Quartets)

We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.
Through the unknown, unremembered gate
When the last of earth left to discover
Is that which was the beginning;
At the source of the longest river
The voice of the hidden waterfall
And the children in the apple-tree
Not known, because not looked for
But heard, half-heard, in the stillness
Between two waves of the sea.
Quick now, here, now, always
A condition of complete simplicity
(Costing not less than everything)
And all shall be well and
All manner of thing shall be well
When the tongues of flame are in-folded
Into the crowned knot of fire
And the fire and the rose are one.

About the artist

Toña Vegas, (Caracas, Venezuela) is a multidisciplinary artist working with mixed media, printmaking, digital processes and site-specific three-dimensional works. Her work ponders on the visibility of an energetic underlying matrix present in every apparently distinct element of nature us humans included.

She was raised in Caracas, Venezuela where she received a BA in Psychology, studied Graphic Arts at the Center for Graphic Arts (CEGRA) and mentored with artists Mercedes Pardo and Alejandro Otero. She was part of a multidisciplinary team for the creation of the Center of Cultural Action in a violent slum in Caracas (2015-2017), was a member of the Board of Directors of Museo Alejandro Otero (2001) as well as a founding member of an art, education and culture NGO, Guaraira-Repano Asociados (1996).

Her site-specific installations can be seen at buildings, institutions and private residences throughout the city of Caracas and Miami.

Among her solo shows are "Energy Matters" at Imago Art in Action -Miami (2019), "Inventory/takes" The Clemente Center -New York (2017), "Universe of Silence" Gsiete Galería -Caracas (2012), "Formas del tiempo" Okyo Gallery -Caracas (2008), "Polarity and Inner space" ADD Gallery-Hudson, NY (2006), "Water" Galería 39-Caracas (2004), Espace-Zafrá -Paris (2003), "Threads and foundation" Galería Alternativa -Caracas (2000), "Watercolors" Galería Sanarte -Caracas (1987) and "Collages y dibujos" Galería Siete Siete (1987) -Caracas.

Her group exhibitions include the Museum of Contemporary Art in Caracas, Museum of Fine Arts, Caracas, Bienal at the University of Los Andes, Mérida Venezuela, among other galleries in Venezuela, as well as in Contemporary Latin American Art, Pocket Book Factory, Hudson, NY, and Strasbourg Art Fair, France.

Since 2017 she moved to Miami where she had her solo show at Imago Art in Action (2019) and has exhibited her work at the Coral Gables Museum, Pan American Art Projects, Concrete Space and Bakehouse Art Complex.

She is currently a resident artist at Bakehouse Art Complex.