

Galerie Rompone

Juan Alberto Negroni @Salone Rompone

02. September - 04. November 2023

***When you look at your oeuvre do you have subjects and themes that are constantly to be found in your paintings?**

My upbringing in Puerto Rico, household environments, folkloric visions of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean in general and displacement are constant subjects in my work.

Tell us something about the "Bitter Sweet Velorio"- series we see here in the show. The paperworks all seem to have a certain transparency.

Bitter Sweet Velorio is an homage to my father Juan Antonio (Tato) Negroni. My father was a very romantic guy. He would cry by watching tv shows of families being reunited. He loved very romantic music and he was always reminiscing about the past. He was brutally honest and often rude to others. At the same time he was very easy to read through his eyes. He was almost transparent.

He was a very simple guy who liked his simple life. All that mattered to him was my Mom and his children. And everyone knew that. He never pursued a luxurious life. He was happy having us close. I guess that it was important for him to feel he could protect us. The same way we relate to plants. They take care of us and we care for them. If one part fails, the other will fail too.

Transparencies in my work also refer to Puerto Rico's humid weather and nature's capacity of regenerating itself. Puerto Rico has been roughly beaten by natural disasters and equally assaulted by colonization and the politicians in charge of the Island. Transparency alludes to fragility, change and strength.

What is your definition of beauty reflected in your art?

Beauty in my work is all the elements coming together harmoniously.

***Nature and landscapes are a great reference in your work !**

Identity was never an issue while I was living and working in Puerto Rico. But being here in the USA and meditating about who I am I realized that all my memories are taken over by Puerto Rico's landscape. The Island is only 9100 km². It is very diverse in ecosystems. The further you will be from the ocean is about 90 minutes driving. We also have an amazing rainforest on one side of the Island while on the opposite side there is a desert. Also the domestic garden has been super important in my work.

My Dad used to have fruit and vegetable plants in our small backyard. He was always very proud of his backyard and the fact that they could feed us from it. After a year living in Dallas, my father passed away. Going back home and realizing that the garden had lost its keeper, made me realize how important plants were in my upbringing. So I guess these pieces are part of a larger homage to my father and Puerto Rico.

You're working as well with contrast, in meaning and material. You create installations, three dimensional objects, paintings and assemblages. In all of these expressions how important is color for you ?

I think that color alludes to other things that I am interested in like music. My use of color can refer to a "conga" solo. It is a way of activating my as well as the viewer's senses.

Individual and collective memory is important in your work !

I am the third of four siblings. I had a beautiful childhood. We come from a household full of love.

The part of my practice which deals with collective memory approaches the subject from a not so happy or optimistic perspective. Some of my work deals with the Atlantic Slave Trade and its repercussions in Puerto Rico, the Caribbean and the of Latin America.

Juan Alberto Negroni:

geboren/ born 1979, in Bayamón, Puerto Rico. Er lebt in / He lives in Dallas, TX, USA.

Sammungen/ Collections

Le Consortium Museum, Dijon FR / Meadows Museum of Art Collection, Dallas TX

Reyes-Veray Collection / Pont Family Collection, San Juan PR

Museo de Arte de Caguas, Caguas PR / Jiménez/Colón Collection, Ponce PR

Serapión/Belk Collection, San Juan PR

Ausbildung/ education:

2003

BFA Printmaking, School of Fine Arts & Design, San Juan, Puerto Rico

2017

MFA Studio Arts, Meadows School of the Arts, Southern Methodist University, Dallas TX

2008

MA Ed Art History/Museum Studies, Caribbean University, Bayamón Puerto Rico

Ausstellungen/ Auswahl 2023 - 2010**Solo Shows**

2022

Maneras de llegar, Galería Sagrado Corazón, Universidad del Sagrado Corazón, San Juan PR

2021

Pacificaribbean, San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, San Luis Obispo CA

2019

SERENO, Carneal Simmons Contemporary Art, Dallas TX

2018

A Midsummer Night's Dream at 18.2208° N, 66.5901°, Texas Woman's University, Denton TX

Tiny Floral Show, (curated by Danielle Avram and Ryan Goolsby), Edelman, Dallas TX

2010

Not About Beauty, San Juan School of Design, San Juan Puerto Rico

2008

If it weren't for my horse, ARWI Art Foundation, San Juan PR

2005

The Defect Effect, Galerías Dilán, San Juan PR

Doppelausstellungen/ Two artists shows

2023

Shiraz Damani and Juan Alberto Negroni, Galerie Rompone, Cologne DE

2022

Hail Mary, Liliana Bloch Gallery, Dallas TX

2020

Topografías de campo y espacio, Juan Alberto Negroni y Alexandra Santos Ocasio, Matadero Contemporary Art, Guaynabo PR

2017

Home and Visitor, Benjamin Grivot & Juan Alberto Negroni, Le Consortium Museum, Dijon FR

Group Shows

2023

Garden Party SP/N Gallery UTD, Dallas TX

COSO 2023 Biennial, VAE Raleigh NC

2022

CHAOS 8, Ro2 Art, Dallas TX

Equity in the Arts Fellowship Exhibition, Talley Dunn Gallery, Dallas TX

Comme un léger contretemps... (*Like a slight hiccup...*), La Grange Gallery, Cernay-lès-Reims, FR

Gelée Royale, Gallerie Rompone, Cologne DE

2021

WILD, Cluley Projects, Dallas TX

HABITANTES espacio | memoria | identidad, Museo de Arte de Bayamón, PR

Medallion, Exposition Gallery, Dallas TX

2020

FUTURE READY: Survival Now + Next, Anchorage Museum, Anchorage AK

The 33rd Festival Les Instant Vidéo 2020, [.BOX] Video Art Project Space, Milán IT

Breathing while black, Augusta Savage Gallery, UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center, Boston MA

2019

The Future is...Ordinary?, Shangyuan Art Museum, Beijing CH

COSO 2019 Biennial, VAE Raleigh NC

Shiny and New, Carneal Simmons Contemporary Art, Dallas TX

Topologies of Excess: A Survey of Contemporary Practices from Puerto Rico (curated by Emma Saperstein and Mariola Rosario), Harold J. Miossi Art Gallery, San Luis Obispo CA

2018

Muestra Nacional de Artes, Antiguo Arsenal de la Marina, Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña, San Juan PR

L'Almanach 18 / Museum Collection Exhibition, Le Consortium Museum, Dijon FR

Ceramics, Fabrics & Folk (curated by Karen Tauches) Swan Coach House Gallery, Atlanta GA

Vanitas, Sala Dogana, Palazzo Ducale, Genova IT

STILL LIFE, B#S Gallery, Treviso IT