

François Piquet

Contemporary Art – Guadeloupe

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Archipelagos of Me



Saint-François, Guadeloupe

Artistic interventions in the city streets

Contemporary art exhibition

Workshops and artistic meetings

A projet of François Piquet,
in collaboration with the city and its inhabitants,
about composite identities & black/white stereotypes

Archipelagos of Me

« Archipelagos of Me » is a further-reaching artistic project consisting of placing art among people and bringing back its social and utopic functions.

To create good conditions for an artistic meeting with people, the artist includes in his project both the city and the community by using three different bases : StreetArt – Exhibitions – Workshops and artistic meetings.

Artistic interventions in the city streets

« Archipelagos of Me » places ephemeral artworks in the public space, mainly on the city walls, thanks to an approach including the inhabitants and hence creating a relationship. These exchanges are essential for the transformation of the interventions into a Community production. They enables the transmission of clues essential to understand the enigmatic artworks better.

The artist meets the inhabitants and offer them to place collages on the walls of their house, or to identify the abandoned areas of the city. Hence, as an urban rebus, an archipelago of meetings spreads in the streets.

Exhibition, referencing space

The pictures visible in the streets are also part of an exhibition in the city, completed by photographs of the interventions, original paintings, and documents about the artistic approach used to realize this series.

The exhibition is to be considered as a referencing space enabling the creation of links between the pictures, the understanding of the connections in between them and the possibility to imagine other narrative potentialities.

Creative workshops with children

To support his approach of democratisation of art, the artist offers workshops with children at the place of the exhibition. These workshops are free.

After the discovery of the artist's work and the understanding of his artistic approach, the children create life-size black and white drawings which are also shown in the public space ; some of the artworks are even part of the exhibition and others are duplicated and placed in the city streets with the agreement of the inhabitants.



Saint-François, Guadeloupe

The artistic process in a nutshell

Unique artworks in the public space

The artist paints black and white life-size portraits, showing figures mixing cultural and ethnic stereotypes. These paintings are then printed and the artist adds some emblematic and strongly codified colours ; like the colours of flags, green-yellow-red, blue-white-red, etc. The verticality of the colours reminds the viewer of the uniforms of camp inmates.

The figures are placed in the public space, in emblematic areas where the geographical identification is important in order to play with the context ; street name, history of the place, etc.

Photographs and videos are realised on the basis of these ephemeral interventions in situ.

Create the conditions for the meeting

These public pictures mix and deconstruct « stereotypes of black people » and « stereotypes of white people » by emphasizing cultural contrasts and by producing an impossibility of determining the « origin » or the « colour » of the figure portrayed. The only visible colours are representations of codified national or cultural archetypes, reminiscent of prisoners uniforms.

To place these figures in specific urban spaces emphasizes the subject of the artworks by highlighting the contrast between the archipelago of identity (inherent to the individual, and exacerbated nowadays) and the visions inherited from history and the recent past.

Public and accessible art

This intention of creation, easily realized, fits with the will to turn art into an accessible field, concerning both the exhibition places and the content. A similar project was successful in Pointe-à-Pitre during the opening of the artistic squatt in the Museum L'Herminier in 2009, thanks to the association Awtis 4 chimen, of which François Piquet was a founding father.

The series « Archipelagos of myself » started in Guadeloupe (Saint-François, Le Moule, Pointe-à-Pitre, etc) but can also be found on the walls in Saint-Martin and in Martinique (Fort-de-France, Saint-Pierre). To be continued.

More informations...

<http://www.francoispiquet.com/ArchipelsDuMoi-Piquet.htm>

https://www.facebook.com/francois.piquet.art/photos_albums



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