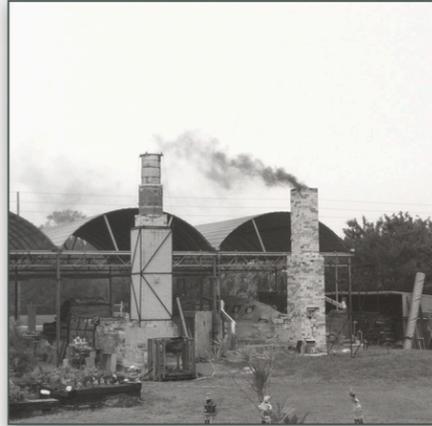




intus

aimée perez
SCULPTOR



Aimee Perez
INTUS

OPENING STATEMENT
Danny Dobrow, Curator of the Center Gallery

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Marta Tejera | mt Designs

GALLERY
Morean Center for Clay

FEATURED ARTICLE
by Alberto Jorge Carol

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in t u s

Opening Night
February 8th, 2020

February 8th, 2020 through March 7th, 2020

intus

INTUS

From Latin in. /in•tus/
Inside, within, from within

intus

Intus brings the work of Miami based multidisciplinary artist Aimee Perez to the Center Gallery at the Morean Center for Clay. Through sculptures of the human body as well as ritual objects and alters, she addresses, in her words, “paradoxical truths of suffering and redemption”. To me, her work is arresting, intense and beautiful.

It has been the mission of the Center Gallery to exhibit exciting and challenging work that expands the definition of ceramics and ceramic art. Perez seamlessly fits into this mission. Her incorporation of materials beyond clay and her ability to make objects that seem both ancient and contemporary make this an exhibition I was eager to organize and see.

I am thrilled to be able to share Perez’s work with the membership and audience of the Center for Clay. I hope you enjoy the show.

Danny Dobrow,
Curator of the Center Gallery

S U T I

A bundle of elaborate ropes rains down from the ceiling. Each rope is the complex fruit, the linear offspring of the sculptor's tenacious and enlightened hands. Manila Rope, hemp, alpaca, burlap, jute and silk--the rough and the delicate--are combined yet not woven, for every rope is meant to remain a singular entity different from the rest and is seldom linked to another. The dangling individual lines of braided fibers bear other fibers tightly coiled around them. Pieces of ceramic---suggesting parts of broken vessels, stones or even the twisted claw of a beast--are often attached to the ropes totally or partially wrapped by the new layers of fiber. Earthly colors--from each fiber's natural hue to the warm tints of ochre and yellow, occasional blues and sparks of red--consummate the arresting appeal of this unique sculpture. It depicts nothing, but its title, "Intus" - Latin for inside, within, from within--provides an unmistakable clue of the author's intentions. The artist is metaphorically telling us: "These are my spiritual entrails; the tendons, ligaments, nerves of my soul".

All of Aimee Pérez's oeuvre is characterized by the usage of diverse materials which she has the talent to tame, harmonize and put to the service of her artistic expression. In "I, Land" an iron plinth supports and separates a squatting woman from her discharge of long coarse ropes and borne ceramic elements. Real stones lie at the bottom. But such separation, the space created, is also its opposite, an indispensable connection, because without it, the artistic image would fail. In "The Spinners" the visual intimacy between the white fibers and the women's white hair is impressive and compelling. But so is the sharp contrast achieved by the dark brown figures, naked despite being producers of fabric, three with their sad gazes fixed on the same direction yet the fourth looking upward as if yearning for a respite or a different life. "Double Headed Eagle" is another brilliant example of mixed media eloquence. The eagle is a woman. Her nuanced green-sienna dreadlocked mane ends in an astonishing

display of turquoise strips of cloth. One may think of the glamorous feathers of an imperial bird of prey. Instead, the faces evince an enigmatic passivity, doubt, defenselessness, that contradicts what an eagle is expected to symbolize. The piece points to the distinction between adornment and essence, to frailty at the heart of power, to the eroding burden of endurance.

These few examples suffice to underscore not only the richness of the sculptor's artistic resources but most of all the fundamental importance of representation in her ceramic output. "Intus" squeezes self-referentiality up to the turning point of metaphor. In the ceramic sculptures the gist of metaphor springs from the unabashed reflections of women's feelings through the intense and highly imaginative representations of their bodies and faces. The employment of assorted materials come to aid and enhance but they are always factors subordinated to representation.

Aimee Pérez's years of living in Mexico and traveling across the region and the world has had a cultural impact on her personality. The ancient traditions, legends, myths and the popular art of the Peruvian and Mesoamerican gifted creators resonate in her artworks. A realization of the post-modern tenet of erasing the boundaries between vernacular and high art? Much more. Hers is the work of a remarkably qualified specialist who freely draws from multiple references with the ultimate purpose of sharing her innermost feelings. Her art is confession. Identity that stems from the heart not ethnicity, from the universal not the limited. We won't find either a single particle of irony, parody, detachment. She offers the vibrant and troubled treasures of a woman's psyche in the forms of a sophisticated and austere beauty. No wonder the empathy and the acclaim she consistently reaps.

Alberto Jorge Carol

Intus
tapiz fiber art
132 x 40"



INTUS

YO TIERRA



Yo Tierra
mixed media sculpture
46 x 10 x 10"



LAS HILANDERAS



Las Hilanderas
ceramic and fiber sculpture
25 x 18 x 10"



DEIDAD



Deidad
ceramic sculpture
19 x 22 x 8"





AGUILA BICEFALA

Aguila Bicefala
mixed media sculpture
24 x 14 x 12"



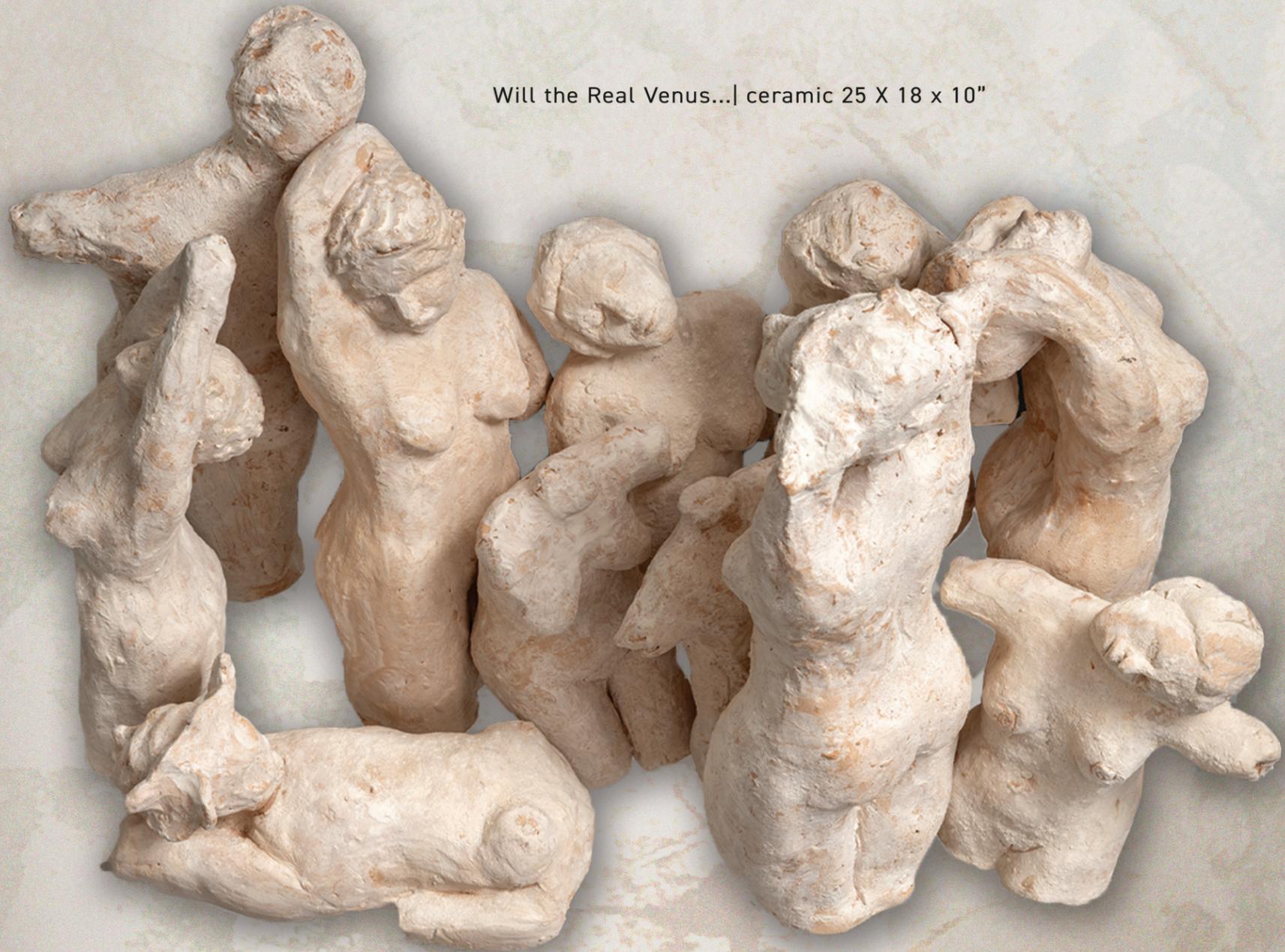


Red River
mixed media
65 x 13 x 12"



RED RIVER

Will the Real Venus...| ceramic 25 X 18 x 10"



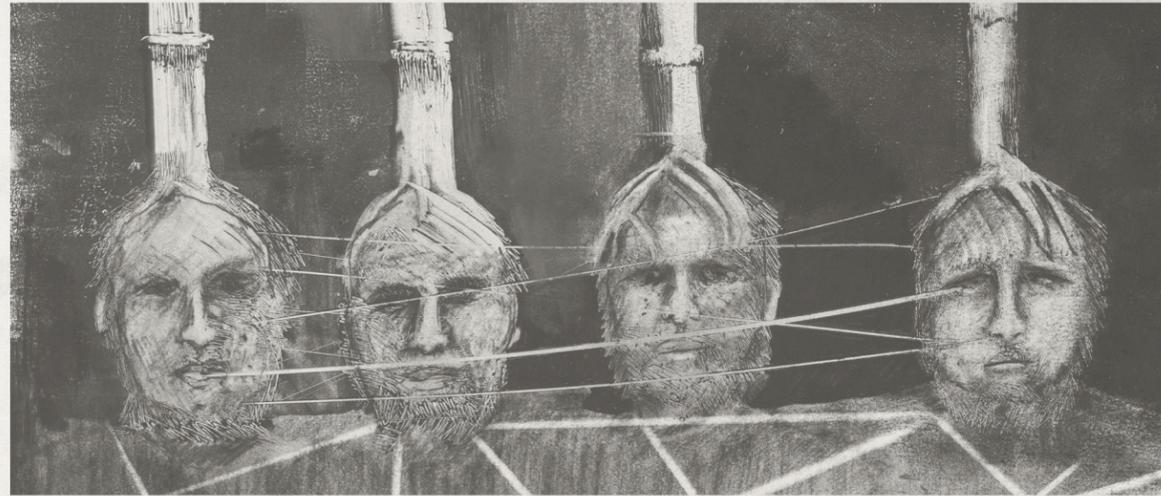
WILL THE REAL VENUS...



ONDULACIONES

ON THE COVER
Ondulaciones
mono print
20 x 24"





MITOS

Mitos 1
mono print
20 x 24"





MITOS II



Mitos 2
mono print
20 x 24"





Aimee Perez

Aimee Perez was born in Havana Cuba in 1955. She left for the United States when she was twelve with her family through the Freedom Flights and grew up in Miami in Cuban immigrant community. As a young adult she won the Gold Key Award in painting and several honorable mentions as she continued her pursuit of the arts during her college years. In 1989 she moved to Mexico City and continued painting and exhibiting with Cuban and Mexican artist. In 1997 she was invited to participate as a guest artist in the studio of Mexican sculptor Jose Sacal and it is here she begins to work for the first time in 3D with clay. She returned to Miami in 2006 and continued her work winning several awards for her figurative ceramics in the state of Florida. Perez has been praised for her command of gestures making her sculptures expressionistic and powerful which combined with the juxtaposition to found objects creates an organic symbiosis. She says her work is her voice, a dialogue with the observer and simultaneously a self-exploration. Her work can be found in many private collections in the United States and Mexico and in permanent collections including Florida International University Honors College Collection and The Bennett Women's Art Collection in Texas and Chicago.

About the Artist

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2016 - Mapping The Heart, CGAF Gallery, Lilia Garcia, curator, Miami, Florida
 2018 - Broken Roots, Kendall Art Center, Henry Ballate, curator. Miami, FL

RECENT EXHIBITIONS

2020 - Hilo Textiles en el arte contemporaneo, Galeria UPR Rencito Universitario Mayaguez, Annie Saldana curator, Puerto Rico
 2019 - Repeating Island- Contemporary Art of the Caribbean, KAC Gallery, Roxana Martinez Bermejo curator, Miami, FL
 2019 - Encounter/Nine Contemporary Cuban Artists, Saladrigas Gallery, Ignatian Center for the Arts, Victor Gomez, curator, Miami Florida
 2019 - 32 International Art Competition, Alexandria Museum of Art, Alexandria, Louisiana
 2019 - 47th International Art Exhibition, Brownsville Museum of Fine Art, Brownsville, Texas
 2019 - Art of Clay, Wichita National exhibition, Mark Arts Center, Wichita, Kansas
 2019 - Them, an anthology of migration, The Sidney and Berne Davis Art Center, Cesar Aguilera curator, Ft Myers, FL
 2019 - Art Palm Beach, Art Synergy, Eric Weiss curator, West Palm Beach, FL

 2018 - The Moon in the Mirror, Ninoska Huerta Gallery, Adriana Herrera and Willy Castellanos curators, Coral Gables, FL
 2018 - Small Format, Little White Box Gallery, Yovani Bauta, curator, Miami, FL
 2018 - Threads, Braids and Fibers, Little White Box Alternative Space, Yovani Bauta, curator. Miami, Florida
 2018 - BRADICA, Carlos Saladrigas Gallery, Belen Preparatory School, Miami, FL
 2018 - Esta es una gran Historia, Universidad de Anahuac, Mexico City, Mexico
 2018 - Capu, Galeria Efe Serrano, Murcia, Spain.
 2018 - No Constraints to Beauty, Pompano Beach Cultural Art Center, Pompano Beach, Florida
 2018 - 46th Internacional Juried Exhibition, Brownsville Museum of Fine Arts, Brownsville, Texas.
 2018 - Three Women, Three Elements, The Wirtz Gallery, Miami, Florida.
 2017 - High Frequency, Milander Center, Hialeah, Florida
 2017 - Close Up II: Nine Contemporary Cuban Artists, Lore Degenstein Gallery, Selsgrove, Penn.

2017 – Looking At The Collection, Huntsville Museum of Art, Huntsville, Alabama
2017 – Narrative, Pompano Beach Cultural Center, Pompano Beach, Florida.
2017 – Red Clay Survey, Huntsville Museum of Art, Huntsville, Alabama
2017 – Young Art Collectors Council, Viridian Gallery, New York City, New York

2017 – Syngularities, FIU College of Engineering, Honors College, Miami, Florida
2017 – Naturae, Galería Efe Serrano, Cieza, Murcia, Spain
2017 – Pentavisions – Five Contemporary Cuban Artists, Arango Gallery, Coral Gables, FL
2016 – Time Travel, Aqua Art Miami Fair, Miami Beach, FL
2016 – Nestgen – Ecological Biennale Project, FIU Engineering College, Miami, FL
2016 – Latinos 500, Barry University and Miami Shores Fine Arts Commission, Miami, FL
2016 – Bombay Sapphire – Artisan Series, Wywood Lab Gallery, Miami, FL
2016 – 26th Annual All Florida Juried Arts Show, Stuart, FL
2016 – CloseUp, Eight Contemporary Cuban Artists, Webber Gallery, Ocala Florida
2016 – Judge in the Coconut Grove Art Festival
2016 – Miguel Rodez Art Project, Hello Dali, Miami Florida

HONORS/AWARDS

2013 - Best in Show – CLM show University of Miami, Miami, FL (Debra Fritts curator)
2014 - Best in Show – CLM show University of Miami, Miami, FL (Arthur Rodriguez, curator)
2014 – Best in Show – Artsight Gallery, Coral Gables, FL (Maria Lino curator)
2017- Red Clay Survey – Merit Award

COLLECTIONS

Florida International University, Honors College Art Collection, Miami, FL
The Bennett Women's Art Collection, San Antonio, Tx.
Huntsville Museum of Art, Huntsville, Alabama
Leonardo Rodriguez/KAC Collection, Miami, FL





morean center
FOR CLAY