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CHRISTIAN CURIEL

LETHE

Vernissage samedi 8
septembre 2007
Exposition du 8 septembre
au 13 octobre 2007

Les peintures de **CHRISTIAN CURIEL** ont été montrées à de nombreuses reprises dans des musées ou des galeries lors d'expositions de groupe ou personnelles.

L'artiste, originaire de Porto Rico, expose à Paris pour la première fois en galerie.

L'exposition *J'en Rêve* à la **Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain** en 2005 avait permis de découvrir son travail.

L'ensemble des pièces réalisées pour cette exposition fait référence au fleuve **Léthé**, lieu d'oubli dans l'Au-delà dans la littérature grecque ancienne.

Léthé était également décrit par les poètes latins comme un des cinq fleuves des Enfers.

L'eau du fleuve devait être bue par les âmes sur le point de se réincarner afin de se détacher de leur vie antérieure et faciliter ainsi le passage vers une nouvelle vie.

Ovide dans *Les Métamorphoses* y fait également référence et décrit Léthé comme la rivière coulant autour de la grotte du Sommeil.

Par extension, Léthé symbolise le passage d'un état à un autre, le changement de vie.

Dans l'ensemble présenté par **Christian Curiel**, le fleuve, élément essentiel et commun à chaque peinture, symbolise le passage de l'enfance à l'adolescence.

Comme dans une grande majorité des travaux de l'artiste, l'enfance et l'adolescence se retrouvent au cœur des problématiques de l'œuvre.

La vision fragmentée du souvenir de notre enfance nous apparaît paradoxalement lointaine et familière. La curiosité joue un rôle primordial à cette période de la vie.

Le processus d'apprentissage et de construction de notre identité, à travers les souvenirs latents de la jeunesse, sert de catalyseur à mon univers artistique.

L'Histoire, ainsi que la représentation figurative permettent d'apporter un commentaire sur la condition humaine.

Je me sers souvent d'allégories et de symboles afin de commenter et documenter des événements permettant ensuite aux spectateurs d'imaginer et de revivre leur enfance.

Les histoires auxquelles je fais référence dans mes peintures font appel aux différents niveaux de la mémoire, quelle soit non-séquentielle, fragmentée, construite ou bien sélective.

Plutôt qu'une narration linéaire, je montre des moments de curiosité et d'activité dans lesquels le spectateur pourra puiser afin de questionner et rechercher au cœur de sa propre histoire.

Dans un premier temps. Les peintures peuvent apparaître presque banales et innocentes, mais en y regardant de plus près le tragique émerge.

Christian Curiel's paintings have been exhibited in various solo and group exhibitions in galleries and museums in the United States and abroad. Exhibitions include: Bass Museum of Art in Miami Beach, Florida, Museum of Contemporary Art in Washington, D.C., Fredric Snitzer Gallery, Barbara Gilman Gallery, and Leonard Tachmes Gallery in Miami, Florida. His collected works belong to several private, public and corporate collections, namely the Museum of Contemporary Art in Washington, D.C., and the Hort Collection in New York. Internationally, his works have been part of the Art in Embassies Program in Brazil. Also, the artist is a member of FeCuOp, a collaborative group based in Miami, Florida which experiments with social interactions and art. Curiel is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the 2004 Robert Schoelkopf Traveling Fellowship from Yale University School of Art, and the Chestler Visual Arts Award. Christian Curiel was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico to Cuban parents in 1977. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in painting from the International Fine Arts College in Miami, Florida. And in May of 2005 He will receive a Master of Fine Arts degree in painting from the Yale School of Art. The fragmented visual presence of memory from the age of innocence is disturbingly detached and familiar. Curiosity plays a colorful role in the events of childhood. The process of learning and constructing self-identity through the latent memories of youth serves as catalyst for my creative world. History and figuration serve as natural ways to comment on the human condition. I often use allegory and symbolism to comment on current events and allow viewers to access, imagine, and re-live childhood. Storytelling in my paintings works like memory functions—non-sequential and fragmented, constructed and revealing with time. Rather than a linear narrative, I depict moments of activity or curiosity in which the viewer begins with what is given, questioning and developing different stories depending on personal experience. At first glance, images of the normal and everyday appear simple and innocent, yet upon looking closer, the tragic and anomalous begin to emerge.

Œuvres exposées | Exposed works :



Troubled waters, 2007, huile sur toile, 183 x 245 cm



Fugue, 2007, huile sur toile, 183 x 197 cm



In the forest of love and rigomortis, 2007, huile sur toile, 214 x 336 cm



Paranormal, 2007, huile sur toile, 193 x 152 cm



Treasure of youth, 2007, huile sur toile, 122 x 92 cm

CHRISTIAN CURIEL

Né en 1977 à Puerto Rico. Vit et travaille à New York.

Formation

- 2005 Yale School of Art, Master of Fine Arts in Painting
1998 International Fine Arts College, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting

Expositions personnelles

- 2007 Galerie Baumet Sultana, Léthé, Paris
David Castillo Gallery, What Business Has Innocence Here, New work, Miami FL.
2004 Real Art Ways Center for Contemporary Culture, Project Room Featured Artist, Hartford, CT.
2002 Buena Vista Gallery, Going Out on a Limb, Miami, FL. FeCuOp collaboration. Bass Museum of Art, Project Room Featured Artist, Miami Beach, FL.
2001 Dorsch Gallery, New Work, Miami, FL.

Expositions de groupe

- 2006 Lehmann Maupin Gallery, Partial Recall, New York, NY.
2005 La Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, J'en rêve, Paris, France.

The American Society, Finalist Exhibition, New York, NY.

Massimo Audiello, Le Désert de Retz, curated by David Hunt, New York, NY.

2004 White Box, Domestic Arrivals, New York City, NY.

Yale Art Gallery, Intersections, New Cuban Art, curated by Sherisse Alvarez, New Haven CT.

Alternative Space, "Blanc", Miami FL.

2003 Rocket Projects, New Drawings, Miami, FL.

Rocket Projects, Assembly of an Allegory, Miami, FL. FeCuOp collaboration.

Buena Vista Gallery, Drawing Conclusions, Miami, FL.

American Embassy, Art in Embassies Program, Brasilia, Brésil.

2002 Lust Projects, Locust Project, Miami, FL.

Leonard Tachmes Gallery, Is This It, Miami, FL.

NO SHOWS, Art for human rights, curated by Robert Chambers. Bernice Steinbaum Gallery, No Banner, Miami, FL.

Eugenia Vargas space, No Home Show, Miami, FL. Barbara Gillman Gallery, 15/CALIBER, Miami, FL.

Museum of Contemporary Art, Globe>Miami>Island, Traveling special selection, Washington, D.C. Dorsch Gallery, Retrievals, Miami, FL.

2001 Miami Beach Botanical Gardens, Blotter, Miami Beach, FL.

Dorsh Gallery, Grouped, Miami, FL.

Bass Museum of Art, Globe>Miami>Island, Miami Beach, FL.

Creative Juice, Fluff, FeCuOp collaboration, Miami Beach, FL.

The House, Sears Building, Miami, FL. Curated by Robert Chambers.

Home of Bing Castro/Space Exploration, Dwelling 00.1, Miami, FL.

2000 Fred Snitzer Gallery, Robot, Coral Gables, FL. Upstairs Gallery, Untitled, Balharbor, FL.

1999 Upstairs Gallery, Reload, Balharbor, FL. Art House, Miles, Miami, FL. Dacra Space, US 11, Miami, FL.

Commissariat d'exposition

2005 Ingalls and Associates, Monstrously Tranquil, Miami, FL

Interview radio

2004 Art Basel Interviews with Miami Artist, WPS1 Art Radio Program, Saturday 4 December.

Prix et récompenses

- 2005 Oscar B. Cintas Fellowship Award, New York, NY.
- 2004 Robert Schoelkopf Traveling Fellowship, New Haven, CT.
- 2000 Chestler Contemporary Visual Arts Award, Miami, FL.
- 1999 Hispanic Heritage Fellowship Award, Miami, FL.
- 1998 Best of Show, B.F.A. Student show International Fine Arts College. Miami, FL.

Articles et publications

- 2007 Arte Al Dia International, issue 119, texte d'Edward Lucie Smith
- 2006 Ken Johnson, "Art in Review", The New York Times, Aug.
- 2005 El Nuevo Herald, Miami, "Arts and leisure", Dec.
- 2003 Feinstein, Roni "Report From Miami, Expanding Horizons," Art in America. Turner, Elisa, "Out of This World" The Miami Herald, June. Ocana, Damaris, "Rocket Woman", Street Magazine, June. Cantor, Judy, "Very Fine Lines". Miami New Times, Jan. Ocana, Damaris, "How art Art Miami?", Street Magazine, Jan.
- 2002 Ocana, Damaris, "How art Art Miami?," Street Magazine, January. Turner, Elisa, "Best of 2002 Year in Review," The Miami Herald, December. Ocana, Damaris, "Art Overdose," Street Magazine, December. Tschida, Anne, "Art Attack," The Miami New Times, December. Ocana, Damaris, "Art Basel and Beyond: Highlights," Street Magazine, December. Bello, Milagros, "Miami in Focus," Arte Aldia, November. Triff, Alfredo, "North by Art Quest," The Miami New Times, October. Ocana, Damaris, "Math Time," Street Magazine, October. Tschida, Anne, "Arburst," The Miami New Times, August. Triff, Alfredo, "Summer Fashion," The Season When Everyone Locks Up and Goes Away, Not Anymore, The Miami New Times, July. Triff, Alfredo, "Take a Bow, Who Cares About Art Basel The Bass Exhibition Proves Miami Already Had it Going On, The Miami New Times, January. Coxhead, Gabriel, "Globe>Miami>Island," Contemporary Magazine, March.
- 2001 Cappellazzo, Amy, "Globe>Miami>Island," Invitational Catalog, Bass Museum of Art. Ocana, Damaris, "Signs of Life," Street Magazine, December. Turner, Elisa, "Globe Perspective," The Miami Herald, December. Frank-Ruta, "Miami is Hot," Washington City Paper, April.

Collections privées et publiques (sélection)

Fondation Cartier pour L'art Contemporain, Paris, France.
 Frost Art Museum, Florida International University, Miami, FL.
 Museum of Contemporary Art, Washington D.C.
 Art In Embassies Program, United States Embassy, Brasilia, Brazil.
 The Dean Valentine Collection, Los Angeles, CA.
 Hort Family Collection, New York City, NY.
 George Lindermann Collection, Miami, FL.