

Nov 2021
—
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TIERRA

**RACHEL
VALDES**

Pan American Art Projects

www.panamericanart.com
35 Northeast 40th Street, Miami, FL 33137
+1 (305) 751 2550

Cover image:
Tierra (cuadrado III), 2021. Soil and pigment on canvas, 47 x 39 in. (Detail)

THE SUBSTANCE STOLEN FROM THE LANDSCAPE



Tierra (círculo II), 2021
Soil and pigment on canvas
78.75 x 78.75 in



Tierra (materia II), 2021
Soil and pigment on canvas
68.8 x 51.1 in

“I have always been interested in inquiring about immaterial and sensory issues. (...) I refer to the dilemma between the different realities that make up the life of a human being, the mental and the physical, the objective and the subjective”.

– Rachel Valdes

The aesthetic language of Rachel Valdes' work is based on the relationship between man and nature, in which the artistic object is the perfect connection between sensory spaces of both. The subject becomes the center of her work to the extent that landscape or imagined environments are activated, which, like memory, are reconstructed in a chaotic way, at times with areas of absence or excess. Memory is selective and both memories and forgetfulness are part of the emotional balance of a human being. Hence, in her work there are pictorial pauses that do not cease to be painting; as is the case in music when silence is also necessary.

The exhibit's title, “Tierra”, must be in Spanish for its multiple meanings: tierra is soil, land, Earth, and much more. Experimentation is vital in her painting. The organic origin of both pigment and sensory experience reveals her experiences in those places from which she borrows and “steals” their essence. The artist considers these landscapes as a state of mind in which the elements of nature materialize. This interest comes from her experimentation with photography and installations of cubes and mirrors. Like Borges, Valdes has lost the fear of being the culprit, of multiplying the world and making it uninhabitable. Mirrors for Rachel have a generative, dreamlike effect: “Everything happens and nothing is remembered / in those crystalline cabinets / where, like whimsical rabbis, / we read books from right to left” (J.L. Borges: Los espejos). The recent pictorial work of Rachel Valdes also bursts into the experience of the receiver: it subtracts from it, inserts the doubt of the unlive memory, accepts it or questions it a lot, but ends up inhabiting it because they share the truth of having taken the “Tierra” and having transformed it.

Claudia Taboada Churchman



Paisaje rosa y blanco I, 2021
Oil on canvas
98.4 x 90.5 in



Paisaje blanco I, 2021
Oil on raw canvas
98.4 x 90.5 in

BIOGRAPHY RACHEL VALDES

1990 Havana, Cuba.
Lives and works between Madrid and Havana.

EDUCATION

2018 Summit Art Scholarship, Specialty: Installations. Utah, USA.
2006-2010 Graduate of Visual Arts National Academy of Fine Arts. San Alejandro, Havana, Cuba.

SELECTED SOLO SHOWS

2021 Solo show. Pan American Art Projects, Miami, FL USA.
2017 Open study, Study 15 and 10, Vedado, XIII Biennial of Havana, Cuba.
2016 In space. CDAV Visual Arts Development Center, Havana, Cuba.
2016 Eden, Site Specific Installation, Utah, United States.
2016 The Beginning of the End, Site Specific Installation. Times Square, New York, USA.
2014 Pyramid. Site specific, The Pyrenees, France.
2013 Blue square. Site specific, Vermont, USA.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2020 Behind the Wall. ARCOmadrid, Madrid, Spain.
2019 Utopia-Horizons. Palazzo Ca 'Zenobio, 58th Venice Biennale, Italy.
2019 Immersion. Behind the Wall Project. XIII Biennial of Havana, Cuba.
2019 Tropical Virus. Gardens Gallery, XIII Biennial of Havana, Cuba.
2016 Infinite composition. ARCOmadrid, Madrid, Spain.
2015 Blue Cube, Behind the Wall Project. XII Biennial of Havana, Cuba.
2015 Infinite Composition. Curatorial project of Zona Franca, XII Biennial of Havana, Cuba.
2014 Behind the Wall. Rockefeller Brothers Foundation, New York, USA.
2013 Behind the Wall. The 8th Floor Gallery, New York, USA.
2012 Happily Ever After, “Behind the Wall” Project. XI Biennial of Havana, Cuba.

SELECTED AWARDS

2018 Tribute to women with outstanding professional careers who have contributed to promoting art and culture in their country. Embassy of Mexico, Havana, Cuba.
2016 The Beginning of the End, Cuban Artists Fund and Rockefeller Brothers Foundation, New York, USA.
2007 First prize in drawing competition between academies of arts, San Alejandro National Academy of Fine Arts, Havana, Cuba.
2006 National Prize for Drawing Contest “I know my rights.” Havana Cuba.

For more information, please contact us at:
miami@panamericanart.com