

Lujan Pérez Hernandez was born in Madrid, Spain, in 1991 and has lived in between Spain and the United States since the age of 6. She currently lives and works between Brooklyn and Upstate New York. She holds a Master of Fine Arts from New York Academy of Art.

Her work employs a combination of printmaking, drawing and painting, exploring the relationship between earth and spirit while tackling the eternally plaguing questions of love, death, rebirth, and belonging.

Pérez reminds reading somewhere on the internet in 2021: «Your parents did not migrate to this country for you to mispronounce your name so others could understand you better». This made her dive inward as to who she is, where she comes from, and what sacrificing for a better future means. Through extensive research, and farming experience, Pérez has found nature and growing things as a space and source to feel comfortable as an immigrant who is haunted by the cultures she has grown up in, and to inspire her to make work about unapologetically not feeling a sense of belonging anywhere. The word «matrix» originates from Latin, meaning mother/breeding female, and in late English it means womb; as primarily a printmaker she have been interested in responding and challenging her own definitions of print based terms like this one, what image is meant to be reproduced, and what can stand alone as a block/mother.

Pérez's most recent body of work continues her singular navigation between painting, printmaking, and sculpture through a collective retelling of lovers through art history. Instinctually incorporating her vast familiarity with herbal healing and personal histories of nomadic life between Spain and the United States, Pérez's language sensitively considers and confronts the past, offering a deeply connected reinterpretation for an ongoing lovers' anthology. Postulations on love, life, and death have long been a part of Pérez's relationship to painting. Whether nostalgia-steeped representations of memory and the unconscious or fictitious plant creations nodding both to their potential healing powers and their ability to kill, Pérez's charm is her ability to digest and divulge these stories and histories alike.



For Pérez, this oeuvre began with a search for, what she believed would be, a preexisting history of lovers through art history and, after discovering but one small reference book, sought to create her own telling. Beginning with a glossary of reference images of works ranging from Diego Rivera to Nicole Eisenman, Arthur Boyd to 19th century entombed lovers in Milan's Cimitero Monumentale, Pérez then interpolates these compositions with oil paint onto sheets of mylar in her signature black, white, and grayscale palette. Translating the language of their original creator into her own, Pérez extends the foundational narrative through a personalized understanding, maintaining the integrity of the original artwork while focusing on the emotive spirit.

For every interpolation, Pérez affixes the mylar painting to self-made woodcut vessels, each containing a potted plant or flower. Each vessel serves both as a window to their reference image and as allusions to the Spanish ceramics surrounding Pérez growing up, each potted plant selected specifically in response to the soul of each story.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2024

Art Athina, Athens - Represented by Galerie LJ
Rusha & Co Engine Company, Los Angeles - 'I'd love to See You' - Group show curated by Juxtapoz Magazine/Evan Pricco
The Macedonia Institute, Chatham (NY) - Group show
Secci Gallery, Milan - Project Room - Solo show

2023

Galerie LJ, Paris - 'Garden Delights' - 2-person show with Hilary Doyle
Swivel Gallery, New York - 'Botany of Desire' - Group show curated by Sadaf Padder
Salon Acme, Mexico DF - Solo booth, represented by Swivel Gallery
Intersect Palm Springs, Palm Springs - 'Weekenders' - Group show présenté par Rusha & Co, commissariat : Evan Pricco

2022

Kapp Kapp, New York - 'With Our Roots Entwined' - Solo show
Galeria MPA, Madrid - 'Selfie' - Group show
Art Basel Miami Beach, Miami - 'Chubb Fellows' - Group show, commissariat : Chubb Fellowship (by New Academy of Art)
Swivel Gallery, Saugerties (NY) - 'In The Bleak Midwinter' - Group show
Swivel Gallery, Saugerties (NY) - 'The Cowboys Made Me Cry' - Group show

2021

Swivel Gallery, New York - 'Your Nostalgia created a Non Existent Country' - Solo show
SPRING/BREAK Art Fair, New York - 'Where are you From?' - Solo show
Kapp Kapp, New York - 'In the Margins' - Group show, commissariat : Anne-Laure Lemaitre
Future Fair, New York - Représentée par Swivel Gallery et Trotter & Scholer
Southampton Arts Center, Southampton (NY) - 'Beyond the Streets on Paper' - Group show, commissariat : Evan Pricco et Kim Stephens
Showfields, New York - 'Showfields: Group Exhibition' - Group show

2020

Art Basel Miami Beach, Miami - 'Chubb Fellows' - Group show, commissariat : Chubb Fellowship (by New Academy of Art)
Southampton Arts Center, Southampton (NY) - '2020 Vision - Group show
Sugarlift, New York - 'Biophilia' - Group show
PuertoGráfico SGC International, San Juan (Puerto Rico) - 'In Transit' - Group show
New York Academy of Art, New York - 'Eye to Eye: Untraditional Voices' - Group show

2019

Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, New York - 'Side Hustle' - Group show
New York Academy of Art, New York - 'Leipzig Residency Exhibition' - Group show
Sugarlift, New York - 'Mother and Child' - Group show
New York Academy of Art, New York - 'Summer Exhibition' - Group show
Laden Für Nichts, Leipzig - 'Persona3' - Group show
International Print Center, New York - 'Published by the Artist' - Group show

AWARDS AND RESIDENCIES

2021

City Art Corps Grant Recipient
The Macedonia Institute Resident

2020

Chubb Fellowship, New York Academy of Art
Crisis Residency, Covid-19 Artist Residence, Shelter in Place

2019

Leipzig International Artist Program

2018

Academy Merit Scholar Award Recipient, New York Academy of Art
Big Ink Collaboration, Pyramid Atlantic Center for the Arts
Nicolas V. Sanchez Scholarship Programme

2016

Hoopsnake Press Artist Residency