

MADE IN MIND MAGAZINE

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LIONEL CRUET



Lionel Cruet was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico and currently lives and works in New York City and San Juan.

In 2013 was the recipient of the Juan Downey Audiovisual Award 2013 at the 11th Media Arts Biennale at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Santiago, Chile and in 2014 had a solo show entitled Lionel Cruet: In Between, Real and Digital with Bronx River Art Center in New York. He participated in numerous group exhibitions include, SuperReal: Alternative Realities in Photography and Video at El Museo del Barrio in New York, and the Sound Art Fair at Sala de las Artes, Universidad de Sagrado Corazón in Puerto Rico, amongst others.

Cruet received a Master of Fine Arts from The City College of New York – CUNY and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from La Escuela de Artes Plasticas in San Juan, Puerto Rico. His general research focus has been in subjects of geopolitics, technology, and environmental spaces, using digital printing processes, audiovisual material, performance, and installations.

<http://www.lionelcruet.com/>

TRANSLATE:

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SEARCH

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Espacio Intangible
(Exterior view)
Audiovisual installation in storage container
18x40x20 cm – 7x16x8 inches
2014

When did you start to be interested in the visual arts? Please, tell us about your artistic path.

I started in the visual arts very early in my life. One of my teachers in elementary school noticed my interest and oriented me towards extracurricular classes to develop techniques and a proper vocabulary. Years later, I earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from La Escuela de Artes Plásticas in San Juan, Puerto Rico, with a specialization in Image and Design. The program in which I was enrolled was oriented toward the fine arts and the discussions that emerge from the uses of images and informational design. I subsequently enrolled in a Continuing Education program at the School of Visual Arts in New York after graduating. The focus was on Photography and Contemporary Art, and our discussions included those topics as well as the art market in New York City. I earned a Master of Fine Arts in Digital and Interdisciplinary Art Practices (DIAP) from CUNY – The City College of New York. DIAP engaged a variety of digital practices, as well as performativity, site specificity, and social engagement in the digital era.

What subjects do you deal with in your art?

I frequently rely on methods of collaboration, sometimes outsourcing for production, to make my work and perform artistic research using images, texts, and articles, amongst other materials, to generate and develop projects that address the complexities of technological, geopolitical, and natural influences upon perceptions of reality. My work is customarily made with found imagery, and it is produced by combining advanced digital printing processes and sound components. Performance has, at times, played an integral part. I have recently been devoted to topics surrounding unauthorized immigration in the Caribbean. Construction after the destruction, a recurring theme of post-colonialism, and the parallel realities of transmedia and communications are also of interest, and my aim is for viewers to be able to use the alternative points of references to rupture and expand the lenses of their consciousness, and to contribute to the surrounding global discourse.



MADE IN MIND MAGAZINE

FOCUS



**AN OVERVIEW ON
MANIFESTA**
SETTEMBRE 17, 2018



**MIART 2018 ACCORDING
TO ARTISTS**
GIUGNO 4, 2018



**Artefiera 2018:
Winners & Winners**
FEBBRAIO 6, 2018



**A JOURNEY IN TURIN
DURING ARTISSIMA**
NOVEMBRE 27, 2017



**SPECIAL | 57TH VENICE
BIENNALE**
OTTOBRE 13, 2017

INTERVIEWS



LAURA HATHAWAY
MARZO 4, 2019



ELSA & JOHANNA
SETTEMBRE 17, 2018



LETIZIA SCARPELLO
SETTEMBRE 17, 2018



**FRANCESCO DE
MOLFETTA**
SETTEMBRE 17, 2018



MICHAEL BLACK
SETTEMBRE 17, 2018

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How much has your place of origin influenced your artistic choices?

Being from the Caribbean has provided me with a unique palette of ideas and techniques that inspire my artwork and promote the hybrid like, interdisciplinary quality of my artistic practice.

It is a melting pot of culture, ethic, traditions, experiences, and perceptions that have strongly influenced my artistic choices.

Could you tell us about your *Espacio Intangible* artwork?

Espacio Intangible is the result of an artistic research on the concept of the cloud, used as a metaphor to describe a complex system of interconnected networks of digital storage.

For this project I converted a mobile storage container into a life-sized installation, with an immersive interior environment that retrieves a digital images of clouds and its metadata through narrative sound.

All the images were previously collected via email and social media, coming from acquaintances and friends from across the world.

What about (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)? Can you tell us a bit about the meaning behind this series?

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) is a series of images appropriated from the internet where individuals are intervened, arrested in land by police officers from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The subjects are censored using a black square to protect their identity and that is where the title was originated. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is a codification used by FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) for protection of personal information in law enforcement records.



(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Digital inkjet print on

high-density

polyethylene

182 x 121 cm -72 x 48 inches

2014

What artists have influenced you?

There are several artists that have influenced me. One of them is Alfredo Jaar. He is an artist, architect, and filmmaker from Chile.

In his work he is motivated by politics and real events often using participation and audience engagement.

Cildo Meireles is a conceptual and installation artist that uses the language of resistance to political oppression in his work, Meireles is originally from Brazil. His work has been very inspiring for me. Also, Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle is an artist that works with technological mediums, sculptures, and video installations that depict scientific issues and natural phenomena. Although these artists' practices differ, their mode of working is similar, making interesting and attractive overlaps.

Tell us about *Making Windows on Walls* and *Sun at Midnight*.

These give me the impression that you like to play between illusion and reality *Making Windows on Walls* (Interior View) Is a large scale audiovisual performance using a video projector with a video feedback of a hurricane hitting palm trees and a sun that persists shining. The audiovisual performance connects concepts of domestic interior spaces and the sensation of being trapped within a space of



Streams
Video installation
TRT 1:00 minute looped
2014

What are you currently working on?

I am currently working on an upcoming exhibition for the Fall of 2015, I will soon have more information about this. Also I am preparing for a residency at Saltonstall Foundation for the Arts in Ithaca, New York, where I will be doing some research and focusing on production for a new project.



Lionel Cruet - "Mirage"

from [Lionel Cruet](#)

03:00



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