

SOFÍA MALDONADO-SUÁREZ

EDUCATION

- 2008 M.F.A. Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York (NY)
Painting & Drawing
- 2006 B.F.A Escuela de Artes Plásticas, San Juan, Puerto Rico (PR)
Graphic Design
- 2002 Summer Seminar, School of Visual Arts, Manhattan, NY
Sculpture and Installation

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 Las Chicas de Sofía: Una mirada introspectiva, Sala Exposiciones del Plata, Dorado, PR
- 2019 Color Flip, All_Market, Los Angeles, CA
- 2017 FemTrap, Mecanismos, MECA, San Juan, PR
- 2016 Garten, Open Studio Project, San Juan, PR
- 2015 Dorado a Color y el Proyecto Kalaña, Arte Fist Foundation, Dorado, PR
- 2014 Into Gray, Magnan Metz Gallery, New York, NY
- 2013 B.O.Y, Nepenthes New York, NY
- 2012 Fever: Tropical Nostalgias & Urban Anxieties, MAC, San Juan, PR
- 2011 (R)AMPED, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Wisconsin
- 2010 Letargo: Tinta y Sangre, MAC, San Juan, Puerto Rico
Concrete Jungle Divas, Magnan Metz Gallery, New York, NY
Bling Bling, Witzenhausen Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2009 Skate My Patria, Taller Puertorriqueño, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 2008 Project Room, Pinta Art Fair, New York, NY
- 2007 The Tropical Storm, Magnan Metz Gallery, New York, NY

SELECTED GROUP SHOWS

- 2019 El Espacio Común: Producción artística en y acerca de la ciudad, Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico, SJ, PR
Lots of Flying Objects, Queens Museum, NY
- 2018 Relational Undercurrents, Contemporary Art of the Caribbean Archipelago, Columbia University, NY
- 2017

Relational Undercurrents, Contemporary Art of the Caribbean Archipelago, PST: LA/LA, MOLAA, CA
Whitney Biennial, Debtfair, Occupy Museums, Whitney Museum of American Art, NY
Encuentros / Desencuentros, Casa Cortés, San Juan, PR

2016

Frescos, Universidad Sagrado Corazón, San Juan, PR

2014

NYC to Tehran, Seyhoun Art Gallery, Iran
Outside-Inside, Tabla Rasa Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
Nu-Yo-Rican, El Centro, Hunter College, New York, NY
Destination Unknown, Magnan Metz Gallery, Manhattan, NY
Art Album, Castle Fitzjohns Gallery, Manhattan, NY

2013

Against the Grain: Wood in Contemporary Art, Craft and Design, Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale, FL
Nu-Yo-Ri-Can, Hunter College, Manhattan, NY
Caribbean Link II, Ateliers 89', Oranjestad, Aruba
Against the Grain: Wood in Contemporary Art, Craft and Design, Museum of Art and Design, NY
On Painting, Modern Art Atlantic Centre (CAAM), Gran Canaria, Spain

2012

Against the Grain: Wood in Contemporary Art, Craft & Design, Mint Museum, North Carolina
This Side of Paradise, No Longer Empty, Bronx, NY
Into the Mix, The Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, KY

2011

Biennial of El Museo del Barrio: SFiles, Manhattan, NY
Beyond Bling, The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, FL
Diasporas, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, PR

2010

The Art of BasketBall, NBA Cares, Miami, FL
Eames Inspirations, Barneys, New York, NY

2009

The Good, the Bad & the Ugly, Queens Museum of Art, Queens, NY
Synesthesia, Painted Bride Art Center, Philadelphia, PA
Hybridity, SomArts Cultural Center, San Francisco, CA

2008

V Certamen de Pintura Diputación de Castellón, Spain
En Sus Marcas, Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña, San Juan, PR
Real Arts Public, Real Art Ways, Hartford, CT
Graphopoli, Urban Art Biennial, MAPR, San Juan, PR
10th Havana Biennial: Skate My Patria, Havana, Cuba

MURALS & PUBLIC ART PROJECTS

- 2020 Distrito TMobil, San Juan, PR
Turning Art, Boston, MA
- 2019 Arte Fits Foundation, Dorado, PR
San Juan Children's Hospital, San Juan, PR
Sajo/Maccan HQ, San Juan, PR
PricewaterhouseCoopers x Turning Art, Madison Ave. Manhattan, NY
- 2018 PricewaterhouseCoopers x Turning Art, San Juan, PR
Su Casa, Ritz Carlton Reserve, Dorado Beach Club, Dorado, PR
Mural Fest. , Albuquerque, NM
Beyond Walls, Lynn, MA
- 2017 Serafina Beach Club x ICrave, San Juan, PR
- 2016 Cromática: Caguas a Color, Caguas, PR
- 2014 1st Winner: Mural Biennale of Puerto Rico, Foundation for Puerto Rico, San Juan, PR
- 2013 Groundswell Community Mural, Queens, NY
Bronx Museum Biennale Mural x Cre8tive Youth Think, Bronx, NY
Cre8tive Youth Think Mural Vol. II, Brooklyn, NY
Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Puerto Rico, San Juan, PR,
Hotel Caribe Hilton, San Juan, PR
- 2012 Los Muros Hablan, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, San Juan, PR
Into the Mix, The Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, KY
- 2011 Art Miami Fair: site-specific mural, Miami, FL
- 2010 Payne Skate Park, The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, FL
42nd Street Project, Times Square Alliance, Public Art Project, Manhattan, NY
- 2009 10th Havana Biennial: Skate My Patria, Havana, Cuba
Graphopoli: Urban Art Biennial, Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico, San Juan, PR
- 2008 Real Arts Public, Real Art Ways, Hartford, CT

RESIDENCY & GRANTS

- 2020 Mapa Textil Residency, Calca, Peru
- 2019 L.A. Summer Residency Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles, CA
- 2017 Point Green Studios, Brooklyn, NY
- 2015 La Práctica Residency, Beta Local, San Juan, PR
Arte Fits Foundation Residency, Dorado, PR
- 2013 Caribbean Link II, Ateliers 89', Oranjestad, Aruba

2012 Manhattan Community Arts Fund Grant, LMCC, NY
Artist in Residence, Northern State University, Aberdeen, South Dakota
2010 Cuban Artist Fund, Chashama: Studio Program, Harlem, NY
2009 Vermont Studio Center Residency Fellowship, VT

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2017 Drawing and Graphic Design
University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico (PR)

2015-17 Visual Thinking
Painting Studies
Large Format
Urban, Public and Community Arts Seminar
Escuela de Artes Plásticas, San Juan, PR

2015 Summer Leadership Institute as a Lead Artist
Art Portfolio class
Groundswell, Brooklyn, New York (NY)

2013 Mural Project
Creative Youth Think & Bronx Museum, Bronx, NY

2012 Workshop & Performance: Empanada Cooking workshop
No Longer Empty, Bronx, NY

Artist in Residence: Studio seminar and Print workshop
Northern State University, Aberdeen, South Dakota

2011 Mural Project: Summer at Gowanus
Cre8tive Youth Foundation, Brooklyn, NY

Workshop: Silkscreen
University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI

2010 Art Appreciation
Graphic Design
Caribbean University, Bayamón, PR

Art Seminar: Skateboarding Art
Taller Puertorriqueño, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (PA)

Seminar: Studio Work and Gallery Installation
Sparks, Brooklyn, NY

2009 Art History 101

Graphic Design
Caribbean University, Bayamon, PR
Visiting Artist: Ceramics & Painting
Escuela de Artes Plásticas, San Juan, PR

Mural Workshop: Creative Thinking
Vermont Studios Center, Vermont (VT)

2008 Mural Workshop: Creative Thinking
Real Art Ways, Hartford, Connecticut (CT)

2007 Mural Workshop: Creative Thinking
TUTV, at Barriada Morales, Caguas, PR

Mural Workshop: Creative Thinking
University of Puerto Rico, Cayey, PR

2006 Ceramic Workshop
La Liga del Arte, San Juan, PR

SELECTED BOOKS & CATALOGS

Tatiana Flores, (2017). Relational Undercurrents: Contemporary Art of the Caribbean Archipelago
Dawud Knuckles, (2014). The Art Album
Yoav Litvin, (2014). Outdoor Gallery
Lowery Sims, (2012). Against the Grain: Wood in Contemporary Art, Craft, and Design
Matthew McLendon, (2011). Beyond Bling: Voices of Hip Hop in Art
Celina Noguerras Cuevas, (2011). Frescos: 50 Puerto Rican Artists under 35
Carlo McCormick, (2010). Fever: Nostalgias Tropicales Y Ansiedades Urbanas En Sofia Maldonado

SELECTED INTERVIEW LINKS

<https://thefoldmag.com/arts-culture/meet-sofia-maldonado-the-puerto-rican-painter-muralist>
<https://www.designboom.com/art/sofia-maldonado-kalana-puerto-rico-03-17-2017/>
<http://blog.turningart.com/in-studio/sofia-maldonado>
https://muralfest.com/sofia_maldonado.html
<https://www.hercampus.com/school/uprm/puerto-rican-women-killing-it-independent-art-scene-sofia-maldonado>

BIOGRAPHY

Sofía Maldonado-Suárez is a Puerto Rican artist of Cuban descent, from San Juan, Puerto Rico. She has spent most of her career focused on derelict spaces, constructing a poetic experience of colorful abstractions, within uninhabited buildings. Maldonado's urban walkabouts inspired a desire to transform the environment with color by painting abandoned structures using a paint sprayer. Her career is focused on public art and color field painting. The artist also has a dynamic studio practice as a painter and digital illustrator. She develops a sense of community through workshops and versatile community engagement projects. Collaborations with musicians and underground subcultures are an integral part of her artistic practice and aesthetic.

Maldonado's characteristic style is recognizable for its Caribbean palette and roots in graffiti. She deconstructs organic forms in order to explore color fields in her work. She represents feminine energy in her expressive outlines and sensually themed drawings. The artist's colorful landscapes extended in space indicate the passage of time and the ephemerality of architectural structures. Maldonado's highly saturated, almost fluorescent, tropical palette reflects her animated personality and creates optical vibrations due to her energetic marks and distinctive application of color.

Throughout her career, Maldonado's illustrations of femininity have been defiant and present the pleasure associated with the female experience in detail. A deep awareness of spatial deconstruction and what has been established are manifested in her architectural color interventions.

Maldonado reflects her colonial reality in site-specific projects such as *Kalaña*, exhibited at the Whitney Museum Biennial, NY (2017). In this project, as in her massive abstract murals, she employs color as a signifier of abandonment, rather than as a beautifying agent. Maldonado explores the spectrum of the feminine body by challenging cultural myths and social constructs from the outlooks of hip hop, trap music, and reggaeton.

Maldonado has earned a BFA from the Escuela de Artes Plásticas de Puerto Rico and an MFA from Pratt Institute, in Brooklyn, New York. She has participated in select exhibitions: PST:LA/LA at MOLAA, California (2017), La Bienal de Asunción, Paraguay (2014), CAAM, Canary Islands (2013), Museum of Art and Design, NY (2013), Museum of Contemporary Art of Puerto Rico (2012), Museo del Barrio Biennial, NY (2011) and the Havana Biennial, Cuba (2008), and Real Arts Public, Real Art Ways, Hartford, CT. She was awarded the Manhattan Community Arts Fund Grant, LMCC, (NY) in 2012.