

# CUCHIFRITOS

## GALLERY + PROJECT SPACE

— a program of ARTISTS ALLIANCE INC

artistsallianceinc.org

88 Essex Street  
New York NY 10002

Weds through Sat  
Noon - 6p or by appt.

### **KIOSK**

Rebecca Adorno, Javier Bosques, Melvin Martinez, Danny Rivera-Cruz, Chaveli Sifre  
Curated by Guillermo Rodriguez

September 9 through October 29, 2022

Opening reception: Friday, September 9 from 6-8p

Cuchifritos Gallery + Project Space is pleased to present *KIOSK*, a group show curated by Guillermo Rodriguez featuring recent works by artists Rebecca Adorno, Javier Bosques, Melvin Martinez, Danny Rivera-Cruz, and Chaveli Sifre, on view at 88 Essex Street from September 9 through October 29, 2022.

*KIOSK* showcases a series of works created around familiar and abstract associations of the marketplace portraying public markets as a place of mystery. The artists take ordinary objects and turn them into poetic devices. The works shown are created by artists Javier Bosques, Melvin Martinez, Danny Rivera-Cruz, Rebecca Adorno, and Chaveli Sifre.



Melvin Martinez sets the *Plaza del Mercado* atmosphere with a simultaneously festive and nostalgic large-scale painting as a backdrop for the exhibition. Danny Rivera-Cruz presents a series of ornamental modular structures as symbols and negotiators of private-public space as the result of a sustained object-aided investigation. The sculptural scale and quality of these liminal structures suggest spaces of transit: domestic portals like the market itself.

Rebecca Adorno employs a mix of biomaterials to create a series of bio records that contain sounds collected in Puerto Rico, from underwater noise and atmospheric sound to salsa songs and historical speeches. Chaveli Sifre infuses the gallery with “market-scented” perfumes made by the artist together with an *enfleurage* sculpture employing a process that uses natural fats to capture the fragrant compounds exuded by tuberose flowers. Javier Bosques presents a small group of architecturally inspired ceramics co-authored by his mother. On a video piece, Bosques invokes another ever-present food market character with a twist: Pigeons, this time entranced.

The show is the result of an expanded conversation between the artists formalized in two recently opened exhibitions at El Lobi, a former hotel lobby in Santurce, Puerto Rico, and Produce Model Gallery, a former Laundromat in Chicago. As in these previous exhibitions, *KIOSK* presents objects and banal situations that under patient contemplation reveal their potential to marvel, their charm, and poetry.

Image: Chaveli Sifre, *Coconut bombs*, 2016-present. Mixed media, dimensions variable.

**Guillermo Rodriguez** (b. 1986, San Juan) studied fine arts and sculpture at the University of Puerto Rico. He completed a Bachelor of Art (Honors) in Art Practice at Goldsmiths College, University of London in 2010 and attended a Master's program in Curating Visual Arts at Universidad Nacional Tresde Febrero in Argentina. He has participated in the Rauschenberg Foundation Residency, the Banff Centre Visual Arts Residency, inaugurated the The Davidoff Arts Initiative Residency in Basel, and exhibited in the 11th Havana Biennial: *Práctica Artísticas e Imaginarios Sociales*, *Artesur: Collective Fictions* at the Palais de Tokyo (Paris), *Final del Juego* at Fundación Proa (Buenos Aires) and *Entre Formas* at Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico. As part of his fellowship with Beta-Local in 2016, he founded and directed the transitory exhibition platform *La Estacion Espacial*. Rodríguez has recently curated *Herbaria* at Centro de Desarrollo de las Artes Visuales in la Habana, *CROMÁNTICA* de Chaveli Sifre, *Balancing a Blade on Diamond Grass* (*Balancing a Diamond on a Blade of Grass*) at El Lobi, in San Juan and *KIOSK* at Cuchifritos Gallery + Project Space in New York. He is currently ICI's 2022 Curatorial Research Fellow.

**Rebecca Adorno** work stems from a research-based approach rooted in her background in Engineering and Fine Arts. By recontextualizing scientific data, technology, and concepts involving physics of sound, Adorno creates physical representations of intangible phenomena while drawing parallels between aesthetics of beauty and lethality: signs and poetic contents that arise when catastrophic events, such as climate change, show flashes of sublime beauty. Adorno lives and works in NYC.

**Javier Bosques** is a visual artist with a multidisciplinary practice working on concepts related to time perception, memory, and the construction of narratives. Bosques earned a BFA from The Cooper Union in New York City in 2008 and holds an MFA in film directing from UCLA in Los Angeles (2015). Bosques has recently exhibited at Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico, San Juan, 2021; *Storefront for Art and Architecture*, NYC, 2019; Palais de Tokyo, Paris, 2018; LAXART, LA, 2017; Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago, 2017 and Centro de Desarrollo de las Artes Visuales, La Habana 2017 among other institutions. Bosques lives and works from his studio in Río Grande, Puerto Rico.

Deeply invested in the history and materiality of his medium, **Melvin Martinez** produces mixed media paintings, as well as sculptures and installations about painting. Martinez slathers so much paint—in a riot of colors, and mixed with materials like glitter, crumpled newspaper, and costume jewelry—onto his large-scale canvases that their surfaces appear frosted, at once irresistible and grotesque. His allover, abstract compositions reflect an artist who honors his forebears, while also breaking new ground. Working out of Puerto Rico, Miami, and Mexico City, Martínez executes painting deluges of brilliant color and application that vibrate on each and every canvas. He is deeply invested in the history and materiality of his medium, producing mixed media paintings, as well as sculptures and installations. Through his work, he negotiates his place in the continuum of painters, while inviting us to (re)consider how we view this ever-evolving art.

**Danny Rivera-Cruz** is an artist and designer from Bayamón, Puerto Rico. Through a variety of mediums that include installation, mixed media, painting, and video, Rivera-Cruz's practice looks to re-interpret materials and images creating combinations that revolve around the flexibility of memory, image trajectories, obsession, and the spectator's role in the creation of meaning. Rivera-Cruz completed his BFA in Image & Design from E.A.P in 2010 and an MFA in Painting and illustration from Brooklyn College in 2014. Rivera-Cruz lives and works in Santurce, PR.

**Chaveli Sifre** (b. 1986, Germany) researches healing practices, the sense of smell, botany, collectivity, and belief systems. Her practice seeks to generate relationships of affection and rehabilitate our sensorial perception. Encompassing installations, objects, paintings, and performative rituals, Sifre's work explores intersensorial entanglement as knowledge production. She believes understanding the relation between somatic processes, intangible heritage, and scientific knowledge is a necessary part of the decolonization process. Perceptual processes inform the systems of value in a particular society, this awareness exposes us to difference and may serve as a method for dismantling otherness. Sifre lives and works in Berlin, DE.

Cuchifritos Gallery + Project Space is located inside Essex Market, which is fully accessible by ADA standards. The gallery can be accessed from any ground floor entrance. Cuchifritos Gallery welcomes assistance dogs and has wheelchair-accessible restroom facilities on the lower level and 2nd floor, which can be accessed by the east-side elevator. For access inquiries, please contact Artists Alliance at [info@artistsallianceinc.org](mailto:info@artistsallianceinc.org) or (2x12) 420-9202.

Artists Alliance Inc. is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization located on the Lower East Side of New York City within the Clemente Soto Véllez Cultural and Educational Center. Cuchifritos Gallery is supported in part by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. Exhibition programming is made possible by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, and the National Endowment for the Arts. We thank the New York City Economic Development Corporation and individual supporters of Artists Alliance Inc for their continued support. Special thanks go to our team of dedicated volunteers and interns, without whom this program would not be possible.