

MAY 1 — 24, 1998

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Left: Installation view Cover: *Virgin Bride*, 1998, white clay, slip, glaze, 22 x 18 x 12"
Right: *Rosa, la del barrio*, 1998, terra-cotta 22 x 14 x 11"



Publications

Anna. "Kukuli Velarde, Syncretizations: Reconquering the Conquest," *Sulfur*.
Ivor. "We, the Colonized Ones, Kukuli speaks," *Third Text*, #32.
Berger, Melinda. "Redefining 'Immigrant' in the Bronx," *New York Times*.
Z, Jazmin. "Kukuli Velarde at Carla Stellweg," *Art In America*.
Catherine. "Eugenia Vargas, Kukuli Velarde," *Art News*.
i, Francesco. "Kukuli Velarde," *Flash Art*.
e, Kukuli. *Latina* #3, issue 57, *Heresies*.

Kukuli Velarde

ISICHAPUITU

The Evelyn Shapiro Foundation is pleased to sponsor this exhibition of our seventh Fellowship recipient, **Kukuli Velarde**. I would like to thank the panel of jurors who selected Ms. Velarde for our annual grant to an emerging ceramic artist: **Marge Kalodner, Judy Moonelis and Hirotsune Tashima**. Thanks also to **Jeannie Jaffe** who served as Mentor to the grantee during her Residency Fellowship at The Clay Studio. My thanks also are extended to the Board of Directors and to the Membership for their loyal support.

Stanley H. Shapiro
President

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In Memoriam

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Where do they go? 1998, 20 x 14 x 9"

Once upon a time there was this priest wildly in love with a woman who died. In his despair he procured a 'vessel of death' for summoning her spirit, and loved her one more time.

Manchaypuitu (male), and Isichapuitu (female), 'the vessels of death,' were basically human-like vessels and were known to be powerful tools for bringing the spirits from the past.

Oral tradition, Cusco, Peru.

ISICHAPUITU "Cantaros de Vida" Installation (work in progress)

I feel my body populated by memories, impressions, beliefs, fears and desires. They are imprinted deeply, almost etched. They follow me, tormenting me, or sweetening my path.

At this stage of my life, I wanted to summon their presence, thank them for being, and make peace with each of them. But I didn't know how, until I saw a photograph of a Mexican statue from the Rockefeller Collection at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

The figure was two thousand years old and represented an obese male child with his arms up. Somebody made this piece two thousand years ago...and I believe it looks like me.

It is said that every art work is a self-portrait. I imagine the Huastecan artist modeling the clay; giving it his or her eyes, his or her full cheeks, his or her protruding upper jaw. I imagine him or her looking like me. And then, I imagine myself making the Huastecan piece two thousand years ago.

I believe I am continuing something I began long ago. I am remaking the Huastecan piece, and remaking it again and again, as if I don't want to depart from it, as if it were possible to prolong the moment of creation and continue an eternal labor of love.

The installation consists of several versions of the statue presented on the floor, next to each other as a metaphor of wholeness. They go on the floor because I want them invading our realm. They go next to each other, because though carrying different messages, they are all as organs of a single body. After all aren't we all the sum of viscera and flesh, expectations and disappointments, memories and oblivion, generousities, pettiness, longings and desires? They were not created to be observed and qualified just as objects. Their value lies not in my skills but in what they represent, in that story they are here to tell you.

The Isichapuitu installation is an exorcism, but it is also a farewell and a new beginning.

Kukuli Velarde

Born: 1962, Cusco, Peru.

Selected Awards, Fellowships & Residencies

- 1997-98 Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant, New York
Artist in Residence, Evelyn Shapiro Foundation Fellowship, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, Pa.
- 1996 Artist in Residence, Paula and Edwin Sidman Fellowship in the Arts, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.
- 1993 Andy Warhol, Rockefeller, Merce Cunningham Foundations, Recognition for Freedom of Expression, given to 17 individuals, MoMa, New York
- 1992 Bronx Council on the Arts Fellowship, Bronx, N.Y.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 1998 ISICHAPUITU (work in progress), The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, Pa.
METAMORPHOSIS, Long Island University, Long Island, N.Y.
- 1996 HOMAGE TO MY HEART, Museum of Art, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.
- 1995 HOMAGE TO MY HEART, Intar, New York
- 1993 UNDERDEVELOPMENT IN PROGRESS: 500 YEARS, window installation with Ana Ferrer, Soho 20, New York
NEW CERAMIC SCULPTURE, Carla Stellweg Gallery, New York
- 1992 UNDERDEVELOPMENT IN PROGRESS: 500 YEARS, with Ana Ferrer, Institute of Technology (censored), New York

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 1997 SHADES OF BLUE, Resident artists show, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, Pa.
ART-MAKING, John Elder Gallery, New York
FOUR WOMEN IN FORM, Hostos Art Gallery, Bronx, N.Y.
- 1996 ARTISTS FROM THE BRONX, Bronx Museum, Bronx, N.Y.
DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS, Art In General, New York
LABOR OF LOVE, New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York
- 1995 DIALOGUES OF PEACE, Palais de Nations, Ariana Park, Geneva, Switzerland
CERAMISTS OF COLOR, Elsa Mott Ives Gallery, YWCA, New York
HEROES AND HEROINES, New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, Summit, N.J.
- 1994 FOIRE INTERNATIONALE d'ART LATINOAMERICAINE: Special Ceramic Exhibit, Carla Stellweg Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
TRANSFORMERS, An independent curators Inc. national traveling exhibition, 1994-97, Ralph Rugoff, guest curator
BEYOND THE BORDERS: ART BY RECENT IMMIGRANTS, Bronx Museum, Bronx, N.Y.
ARTISTS SELECT ARTISTS, 20th Anniversary of Artists Space, Artists Space, New York
RECLAIM, RECOVER, REAFFIRM: A 25 Year Dialogue, section: Reclaiming History through Contemporary Art, El Museo del Barrio, New York
- 1993 INTIMATE LIVES, organized by Women and their Work, Austin, Tex.
TESTIMONIO, New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York
THREE VIDEO INSTALLATIONS, The Sculpture Center, New York
LONGWOOD STUDIO 1992-93 FELLOWSHIP ARTISTS, Bronx Council on the Arts, New York
- 1992 UNCOMMON GROUNDS: 23 LATIN AMERICAN ARTISTS. SUNY, New Paltz, N.Y.
NEW TALENT, Carla Stellweg Gallery, New York
REMERICA AMERICA, The Bertha and Karl Leubsdorf Art Gallery, Hunter College, New York