

VERONICA DE JESUS

Curated by Squeak Carnwath

September 8 – October 15, 2005

(Opening Reception: Thursday, September 8, 6-8pm)

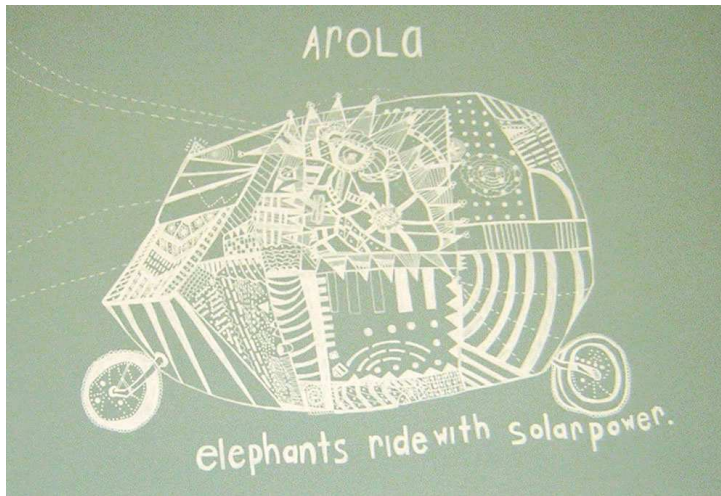
Veronica De Jesus' recent drawings serve as autobiographical examinations of the artist's identity and growth vis-à-vis her turbulent childhood. Included in her first solo exhibition is a series of small-scaled figurative drawings which openly convey an unconventional upbringing predominantly spent on the road. Rendered on discarded pieces of cardboard, scraps of paper, and tree bark, De Jesus' intimate drawings form a family primer marked by poignant scenes ranging from unsettling events involving accidents, separation, sickness, flight, and violence, to the more happy times spent in transit. These narratives originate from recollections patched together from family members and friends, so that individual stories unfurl in clusters — sometimes spontaneously, other times deliberately linked through notations, symbols, and observations. In reference to her past, De Jesus will often install works in precarious places such as hallways, benches, buses, and cars, while setting some of her small works upon the floor to both reinforce their impermanence and substantiality.



random temples, feelings and memories, 2005
Pen on birch
Dimensions variable

Everything in De Jesus' world accordingly has a special purpose from mandelas of intricate, lattice-like flowers rendered in white ink, to ready-mades fashioned out of plain white construction paper, some taking the form of

cherished family belongings, and each work full of imagination and emotional resonance. By re-making something of value from discarded pieces of consumer culture including cardboard, fabric, and grocery bags in familiar and unusual combinations, De Jesus invites viewers to question their preconceived notions concerning worth and security. Symbols of flight and hope including the birds, flowers, and plants which populate many of her larger-scaled drawings also serve as psychological markers, and her choice of readily identifiable imagery engages the audience with a sense of commonality, while encouraging viewers to form their own conclusions.



arola, 2005
19" x 25"
White pen on paper

Through the interweaving of intricate patterns that have formed her life and belief systems, De Jesus achieves moments of tremendous clarity and transcendence by uncovering universal truths surrounding family, hardship, acceptance, and renewal. De Jesus is a profound storyteller, who, according to exhibition curator Squeak Carnwath, "has courage of conviction that is always special wherever it appears, not only because it is rare but because it is so necessary, both to make art and to survive in the world."

(over, please)

ARTIST'S BIO:

Veronica De Jesus was born in Cleveland, Ohio. She is a multi-media artist who received an MFA in Installation and Sculpture from UC Berkeley in 2003. De Jesus, who works with a diverse range of media including recycled box cardboard and wall sculptures, recently concluded a one year Affiliate Artist Program at the Headlands Center for the Arts, in Sausalito, CA. Group exhibitions include *Continuation* at the Oakland Art Gallery, Oakland, CA (December 9, 2004 – January 22, 2005), along with other Bay Area artists DeAnn Cobb, Sharon Siskin and Emily Wilson, and *One Nite Only* with Corrina Peipon and Allison Shields at Acme Art gallery, San Francisco, CA in 1998. She also has a mural as a part of the Clarion Alley Mural Project (CAMP) in San Francisco, CA. In October 2005, she is scheduled to show at San Francisco's LINC Gallery curated by Robin Wright. The exhibition at CUE will be the artist's first solo exhibition in any artistic venue. She is the current artist-in-residence at CUE Art Foundation.

ABOUT CUE:

CUE Art Foundation, a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization, provides educational and professional development programs in the visual arts. These include student internships, stipends, exhibitions, public lectures, and an in-gallery studio program, all of which draw from the talents and experience of the diverse community of artists, art critics, and teachers that the Foundation brings together.

CUE's exhibition season gives unknown or under-recognized artists public and professional exposure comparable to that offered by neighboring commercial galleries, without the usual financial restraints. The Advisory Council, an honorary group of artists and leading figures from the arts education, applied arts, art history, and literary communities, has the responsibility of selecting exhibition curators. The curators, in turn, nominate artists to exhibit at CUE, and continue to play a role throughout the exhibition process. Both the Advisory Council and the exhibition curators actively participate in the public lectures and educational programs.

For additional information, please contact Beatrice Wolert-Weese, Gallery Assistant, CUE Art Foundation, 212 206-3583, or email beatrice.wolert@cueartfoundation.org.