



## **Uncertainty and how to deal with it**

*Text by Alejandro Cruz about Gadiel Rivera's Exhibition "Intimate Stories from the Sea Inside"*

Gadiel Rivera Herrera was born in 1963. He studied Plastic Arts at the Recinto de San Germán, Inter-American University, majoring in ceramics and sculpture. He subsequently got a Bachelor's Degree in Sculpture at the School of Plastic Arts of Puerto Rico. He has presented his artistic work at individual and collective exhibitions in and out of Puerto Rico.

Ceramics is one of the materials for which this artist has stood out, but he gradually discovered and mastered other techniques and materials enabling him to expand the realms of his expression and find new dialogues that express his conceptual evolution as an artist.

Having been born on an island, he is much more aware of territorial boundaries than people born in the continent. Migrations and immigrations have then become necessary for interaction and the sea thus acquires a new significance as a means of transit, for the economy and is full of stories.

In the exhibition "Intimate Stories from the Sea Inside" Gadiel Rivera creates a new possible engineering and presents different scenarios and narratives which arise from the need to bear witness to his time. The artist looks at contemporary migrations resulting from different needs, the drifts from one place to another. And also, the voices that have been silenced by forced migrations triggered by colonialism

The artist abstracted reality by daring to express his critical thinking using different media, materials, and creative processes. His mastery in the use of shapes, drawing and color is expressed in collage, ceramics, charcoal, painting and endless other media and their mixtures, always in constant exploration.

The visitor will find an exhibition that proposes a narrative but with different strategies and techniques, both conceptual and of shape, color, drawing and even



through the incidence of sound. In one part of the exhibition, through concrete abstract black shapes, the artist somehow makes reference to the theory of plates by which the continents as we know them today were formed, although they are in constant movement, however imperceptible it may be.

Puerto Rico is a territory - a large plate - that broke away from a larger one and it is with that idea in mind that in a part of his work the artist tries to suggest the possibility of thinking and thinking ourselves from different constructed realities through a new almost cartographic order.

In the color palette of the exhibition "deep blue" marks the hegemony, and through it, the artist refers to the depth of the sea and the uncertainties it generates.

The invasion of black into blue refers to the lack of light, not being able to see beyond, the same felt by many migrants when venturing into the waters, which can lead them to a certain or uncertain destination, but which can also put an end to their dreams.

Gadiel Rivera continues with the faithful gesture of modelling in ceramics and generates still life as if they were scenarios or reefs as he calls them in his work to remind us of the sea fauna and flora that is also capable of giving and harbouring life.

The narrative in "Intimate Stories from the Sea Inside" enables the artist to show us all his creative universe, his critical thinking about contemporaneity and how he deals with it through his art. Visitors should let themselves be seduced by the exhibition immersive capacity as if it were the exercise of getting into the sea, in this case a sea of different sensory stimuli that only art can provide.