

Translated excerpts from  
Cuerpo y Alma  
Cristina Córdova's ceramic sculpture  
by Rafael Trelles

Ceramic art, as well as printmaking, brings us close to the world of science, of alchemy and the laboratory. The artist must know formulas and diverse materials: clays, glazes, pigments, oxides, acids, resins as well as different firing alternatives and predict their outcomes. It also requires an adequate proficiency in drawing, modeling and color, all this at the service of a rich, complex inner world and an irrepressible desire to express it. The fluidity shown by Cristina Córdova in the integral handling of all of the above mentioned elements is outstanding and should be a source of celebration for the current world of ceramics and Puertorrican sculpture.

But it is the subjective aspect of her figures, mostly feminine, what strikes the viewer giving the seductive strength that distinguishes them. The intensity of the stares as well as the corporal language of these characters immediately submerge us in the depths of her inner worlds. The artist explores the psychology of these beings that look at us perplexed, like captured souls in a fragmented body and a decaying skin but palpitating with a contained erotism.

The tragic vision of life so rooted, since the Greeks, in the occidental collective subconscious, infuses Córdova's characters with a subtle pessimism and melancholic lyricism. Like actors in a theatre of the absurd that wait eternally for nothing, they suffer from an existential agony that questions the meaning of life and death.

With poetry and technical command the sculptor incorporates in her work multiple cultural references such as latin american religious imagery, primitive art, classical sculpture, expressionism and surrealism, all of it filtered and digested to accomplish a personal language. Her source of originality resides in the ability to look within herself without fear of finding devastating truths or uncertainties, without fear of exploring her internal abysses and peaks to offer us her discoveries transformed into clay.

Trelles is a prominent artist and writer living in Puerto Rico.  
He has collaborated with Puerto Rico's major editorials  
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