

NICO AMORTEGUI

Born and raised in Bogota, Columbia, graffiti cubist artist Nico Amortegui paints with unapologetic color and boldness. Amortegui's expressive style incorporates many hidden layers of color and texture that make the largest statement when viewed in person.

Amortegui's artwork is grounded in his personal experience of immigrating to the United States in the 1990s at the age of 17 and his family's artisanal background. His work reflects the influence of being in-between two cultures, which has shaped the themes of his art. His current artistic foci include large-scale paintings on canvas or wood panels, sculpting and woodworking with found objects. He enjoys spending time in the ceramics studio and his elaborate garden.



“Being forever between two cultures has shaped my views and molded the themes of my pieces. I consider myself 100% Latino - equally Colombian and American.”

He begins each of his figurative artworks as an abstract expression of colors. Once his background is complete, a figure appears to him in the abstraction. He then begins transforming his artwork's image with the “left-eye” of his painted figure first. This eye leads the rest of his composition as he adds and conceals with many additional layers.

Amortegui's work is a direct product of the artist's expressed energy — there are no sketches or previous drawings. The work is created solely from in-the-moment energy and the transference of what is seen and felt onto the canvas. The urgency and pace employed to materialize what the artist sees is done in real-time.

Amortegui has had numerous collections and exhibitions throughout the United States, showcasing his unique blend of graffiti and cubism styles. His unapologetic use of color and texture has earned him recognition as an expressive and bold artist.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2021 “Profiles of Vivid Reflections”, Red Dog Gallery; Winston-Salem NC
- 2019 “Colorful Memories”, Waterworks Visual Arts Center, Salisbury, NC
- 2017 “Big, Small, & Sometimes Medium”, The ArtsCenter, Carrboro, NC
- 2016 “Color Me Bad”, Urban Grinders, Greensboro, NC
- 2014 “American Deam”, UNCC Student Union Gallery, Charlotte, NC
- 2013 “Juventud y Angustia”, Ferst Center for the Arts, Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA
- 2012 “MALO as MALO”, The Carrack Show, Durham NC
- “The Beauty of Beasts”, Cosmos Gallery Café, Charlotte, NC

Group Exhibitions

- 2023 Artspace Warehouse, Los Angeles, CA
- 2021-22 Artplex Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2020 "Dreamers and Doers", Sozo Gallery; Charlotte NC
"Small Works", Elder Gallery of Contemporary Art, Charlotte NC, Oct 2019 - Feb
- 2019 "We See Heaven Upside Down", Elder Gallery of Contemporary Art, Charlotte NC
- 2018 "Unbound and Unleashed", Red Dog Gallery, Winston-Salem NC
- 2017 "Sensoria / We See Heaven Upside Down", CPCC Ross Gallery, Charlotte NC
- 2016 "American Vices", Nonfiction Gallery; Savannah GA
- 2015 "Castelatto", Art Basel; Miami FL
- 2018 "Shadow Odyssey", Mahlstedt Gallery; New Rochelle NY

Honors

- 2020 Regional Project Artist Grant Recipient, Arts & Science Council; Charlotte, NC
- 2020 Selected Artist for ASC Community Supported Artist Program; Charlotte, Spring
- 2019 Featured Artist Award, Con A de Arte, ArtSÍ; Charlotte, June
- 2019 Creative Renewal Fellowship Recipient, Arts & Science Council; Charlotte, April
- 2016 Smithsonian Private Collection
- 2013 Future Artist Award, Con A de Arte, ArtSÍ; Charlotte, June



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