

Claudia Martínez Garay Caminos de Liberación

October 1 - November 13, 2021
Van Baerlestraat 80, Amsterdam



Claudia Martínez Garay | *las hermanitas (the little sisters)*, 2021 | detail

GRIMM is proud to announce an exhibition of new works by Claudia Martínez Garay (b. 1983, Ayacucho, PE) at GRIMM Van Baerlestraat in Amsterdam.

"(...) del control de las almas al control de los cuerpos (...), al control de los bolsillos (...)"
"(...) from the control of souls to control the bodies (...) to control the pockets (...)" Walter Mignolo

Martínez Garay's new works create a dialogue encompassing ideas of oppression and indoctrination in modern day Peru. In the artist's second solo show in Amsterdam, she addresses the contemporary effects of neocolonial infrastructures; from genocidal acts perpetrated by the teachings of the Catholic Church, the violence of the communist party and terrorist organization Shining Path, and detrimental Peruvian government policies towards native populations.

Since the Spanish invasion, Catholic ideologies have driven the eradication of native cultural and religious practices.

During the civil war, the development and imposition of racial categories led to enforced community displacement, ethnic cleansing, and involuntary sterilization.

Martínez Garay's work animates this history - in marked contrast to the museum displays where one typically encounters remains of the past - the intimate scale of the ceramics gives a viewer a sense that they are looking into a living diorama where multiple dimensions exist simultaneously. Much like the cultural history she references, the artist's narration contains fragmented motifs and imagery and is infused with an evaluation of her own identity. Clay has long been an important material for Martínez Garay's practice which is also emulated through the earth tones she uses in her paintings. During the past years, Martínez Garay has found herself revisiting family albums, where Andean traditions survived inside Catholic celebrations, in a place hunted by violence. Their inclusion in the paintings presented in the show link historical and personal moments, portraying how brown bodies and minds have become a battleground that ideologies and beliefs are forced upon.

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For more information, interview and royalty free image requests please contact our Amsterdam press office:
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Claudia Martínez Garay | *Te están buscando (they're looking for you)*, 2021 | detail

The exhibition is titled after Grupo Chaski's short film *Caminos de Liberación (Pathways of Liberation)*. In the film, Peruvian priest and philosopher Gustavo Gutiérrez, openly critiques the Catholic Church's indifference and contempt towards socially discriminated members of society. Gutiérrez denounces the power structures that perpetuated these abuses in *Theology of Liberation*, a publication that he co-founded. The publication brings to light the persecution and deaths caused by Shining Path and the military. Both of whom enabled the persecution and killing of members of religious organizations who helped orphans, families, and political prisoners, due to their socialist or even neutral tendencies and practices.

About the artist

Claudia Martínez Garay lives and works between Amsterdam (NL) and Lima (PE). Martínez Garay studied at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Peru (PE) and was a resident at the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten in Amsterdam (NL) from 2016 to 2017. Recently, the artist's work has been exhibited at Sifang Art Museum, Nanjing (CN); Museum Albertinum, Dresden (DE); SAVVY, Berlin (DE); Kunstverein, Braunschweig (DE); El Museo del Barrio, New York (US); 21st Contemporary Art Biennial Sesc_ Videobrasil, São Paulo (BR); 16th Istanbul Biennial: *the Seventh Continent*, Istanbul (TR); *Taming Y/Our Passion*, Aichi Triennale, Aichi (JP); *Immortality*, 5th Ural Industrial Biennial of Contemporary Art, Ekaterinburg (RU); 12th Shanghai Biennale: *Proregress*, Shanghai, (CN); and *Songs for Sabotage* - New Museum Triennial, New Museum, NY, (US). Selected collections include: Akzo Nobel Art Foundation, Amsterdam (NL); AMC Art Collection, Amsterdam (NL); Central Reserve Bank of Peru, Lima (PE); Cisnero Fontanals Art Foundation (CIFO), Miami, FL (US); Fundación Studie e Recherche Benetton, Treviso (IT); Graeme Briggs Collection (SG); KADIST Collection (FR); KPMG Art Collection, Amsterdam (NL); Hochschild Collection (PE); Lima Art Museum (MALI) (PE); LOOP Collection, MACBA Museu d'Art Contemporani, Barcelona (ES); Micromuseo al fondo hay sitio, Lima (PE); Museu Olho Latino, Atibaia (BR); Sifang Art Museum, Nanjing (CN) among several private collections.

About the gallery

GRIMM was founded in Amsterdam in 2005. Since its establishment, the gallery has been committed to promoting and supporting emerging and mid-career artists who work in a diverse range of media. Representing thirty international artists, the gallery has two spaces in Amsterdam, and one in New York. GRIMM recently expanded to a new 6,000 square foot gallery space in Tribeca, New York in 2021.

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