

Exhibition: Re-Konztrukt - Women and Tools, Blanka Amezkua in Collaboration with Luis Sierra

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May 20 - June 10, 2018

BLANKA AMEZKUA

IN COLLABORATION WITH LUIS SIERRA

RE-KONZTRUKT: WOMEN AND TOOLS

OPENING RECEPTION WITH THE ARTIST

SUNDAY MAY 20 3-6PM



Through Sunday, June 10
Tikhonova & Wintner Fine Art, New York

"Since the 1980s, adult comic books have been a great part of Mexican pop culture and cultural production. Targeting mostly the male working class, the "Sensacionales" or "Ghetto Librettos" as they are called in Mexico and the U.S. respectively, are a mixture of soap opera, fiction, romance, farce, thriller, melodrama and depictions of sex. Frequently, while flipping through their pages, one encounters the usual Western 'traditional' story: the submissive woman - almost always a bombshell – who is available for serving and 'catering' to the sexual needs and desires of the aggressive male...



Untitled (Hammer) Embroidery on cotton fabric with Mexican lace 70 x 83" 2017 w/Luis Sierra

Blanka Amezkua has been using imagery from various recycled “*Sensacionales*” in her art for many years now, putting their visual vocabulary at her service and appropriating the genre to convey her messages. Like Roy Lichtenstein, who extensively borrowed his subject matter directly from comic books for his paintings, Amezkua adopts the Mexican picture stories as a backbone for her mixed media works to comment on longstanding clichés about different aspects of female identity. The artist intervenes, appropriates, and reworks the images through the use of domestic techniques such as embroidery and crochet.”

text: Vassiliki Vayenou

For her current series of nine large-scale embroideries, *Re-Konztrukt: Women and Tools*, Blanka invited noted comic book artist Luis Sierra to provide the drawings that she would then render as embroideries. Collaboration has replaced appropriation, with exuberant success!

Accompanying the embroideries are a selection of Blanka's joyous small and large collages from her most recent series: *HAPPINESS IS...* using a variety of papers such as handmade confetti, tissue paper, quilling strips, and the *papel picado* traditionally used in Mexican celebrations.





HAPPINESS IS... #1 Paper collage; 12 x 12 in., 2017 (with detail)

Blanka Amezkua was formally trained as a painter. She studied in Florence, Italy, and received her B.A. from California State University Fresno. Her work and projects have been shown in the United States, Mexico, Belgium and Greece at MoMA-P.S.1, Exit Art, The Bronx Museum of the Arts, El Museo del Barrio, Queens Museum of Art, Towson University, Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts in San Francisco, Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana (MACLA), Casa John Spencer, and The Taller Boricua, among others.

Luis Sierra is an SVA alumni, born in Puerto Rico, and raised in the South Bronx. He trained under Will Eisner and Harvey Kurtzman, among others. His specialties are mainly horror, sci fi and fantasy, but he also illustrates other genres, such as crime stories or comedies.

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