

Artist's statement 2016

Through my work I leverage and manipulate the concept of "Cubanism" and its iconography as stereotypes, taking notice of the ever-changing notion of what being "Cuban" really is, including ideological & cultural material from more recent history. As an artist I do not pretend to tie myself to a specific medium or style. I believe that aesthetics alone should not guide me, not influence my core ideas and central messages.

I most often focus on social, communal and politically-related imagery. My work employs cynicism and irony in the search for paradoxes which include denunciation, implicit conflict and tension, and aspects of power. Even though my tools are visual, as important as the creation of the image - is the selection of the titles for my work, which allow me to strengthen an image with further levels of interpretation. My art and its ideological content strive to open a discussion, engaging the public and asking them to incorporate their own level of interpretation, imagination and opinions.

Nothing inspires me more than to provoke the public to express itself; that completes my work as nothing else can.

Humor, satire, and our extroverted natures -- our 'outdoor' voice and our opinion (/my opinion) -- are always present when my work is finished, even though in my case silent periods can sometimes surprise the most. At the end of the day, though, there really is no such thing as a 'silent Cuban'... especially not me.

MMP, 2016


Milena Martínez Pedrosa