



**FIRST YEAR
PROJECTS IN NYC**
ARANTXA XIMENA RODRÍGUEZ

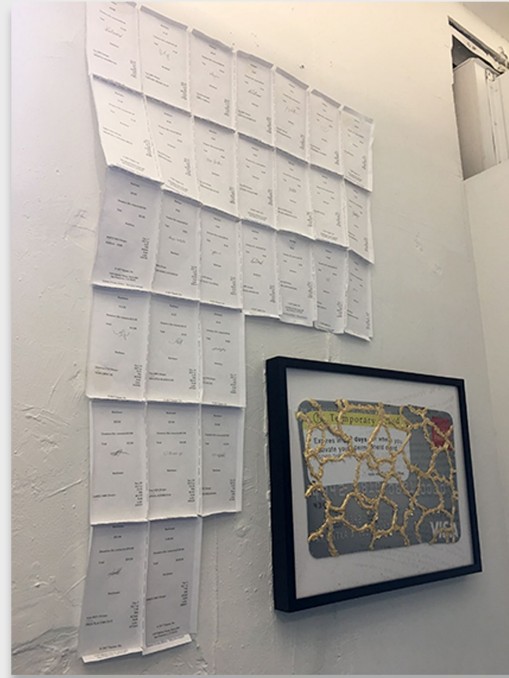
CHAOS IS TEMPORARY WITH RESILIENCE

I had just arrived to NYC a few weeks after an earthquake stroked Mexico the 19th of September 2017. Frustrated by the fact I could only help with donations and good vibrations, I decided to create this project.

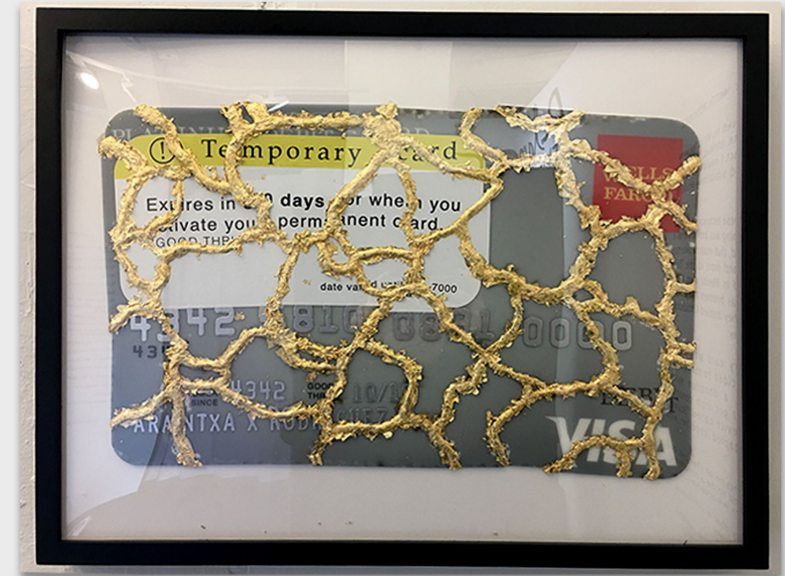
Kintsukuroi is a Japanese technique from the 15th century. When something was broken, they put it back together with gold, that made the piece more interesting, beautiful and with more value. This is exactly what happened in Mexico when all the people came together as brothers and sisters to help with the tragedy, they applied Kintsukuroi to the City in a symbolic way.

Since this temporary card was my only way of helping, I decided to make a copy in large scale and a donation system where every ticket I got from donations (using a payment device called "Square") got printed and stapled together.

The donations went to a community that was very badly damaged by the earthquake.



COMMUNITY OF TLALQUITENANGO IN THE MEXICAN STATE OF MORELOS.



SELFIE PROJECT

This project began by using my selfie in the form of a temporary tattoo as a material for my work. With this project I analyze this current phenomenon. I also play themes of self-analysis (Is it narcissism or self-love?) And I took that research to art fairs in the form of performance. I observe the reactions of the spectators and through the dialogue I obtain feedback that feeds this quest of self-exploration. I walk through the corridors of art fairs, feeling like a living work of art, with the purpose of telling people that we are all works of art, no matter how strange we look and think differently, to emphasize the meaning of valuing each other. This project also touches on feminism, but not in an external way, because I think there are many people who are already doing that, I rather point to myself, because I think that if each person invested in a deep personal work, we would be living another world. That's why my final project was a performance in my studio, where a professional tattoo artist made my selfie permanently on my forearm, so that whenever I pointed out a problem from the outside, I shall not forget that first I have to point to myself.

In my website you can check more parts of this research as well as my artist statement for this project.

ORIGINS OF THE SELFIE PROJECT



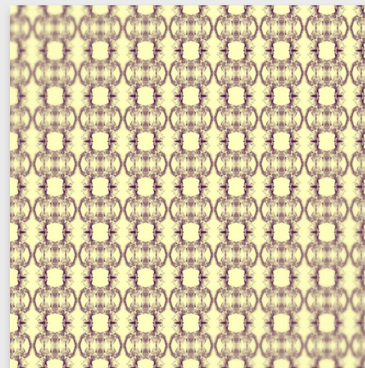
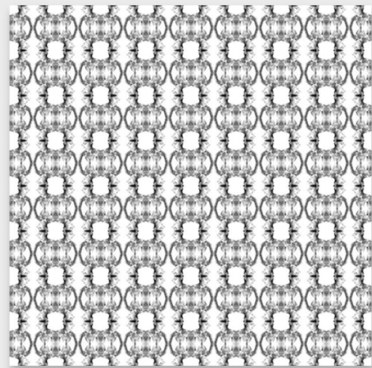
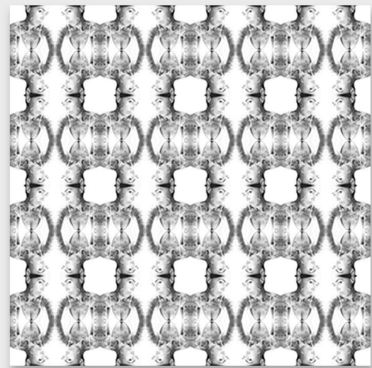
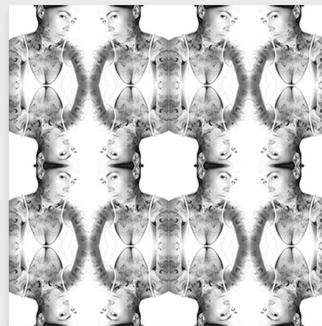
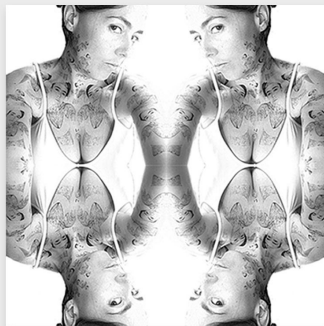
TEMPORARY SELFIE TATTOOS

SELFIE ROUNDS AND FINAL SELFIES



SELFIE PROJECT

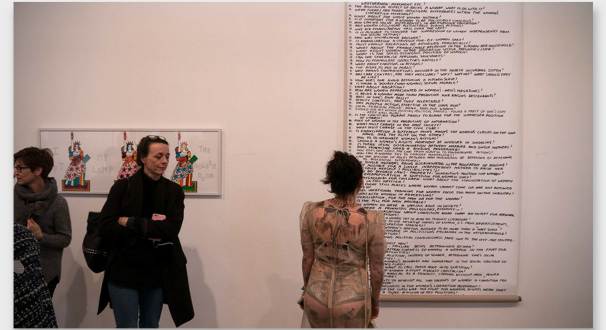
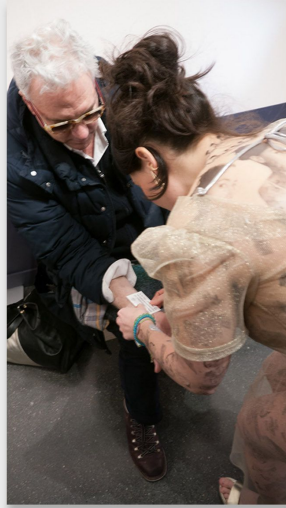
FABRIC OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL UNIFORM MADE WITH SELFIE PATTERNS.



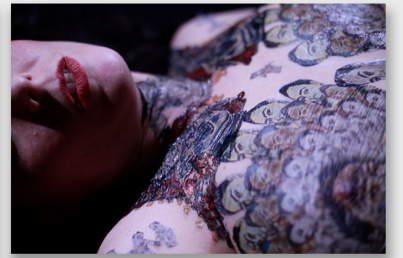
SELF-PORTRAIT FROM THE PAST BASED ON THE SELFIE PROJECT

SELFIE PROJECT

DOCUMENTATION IN ART FAIRS.



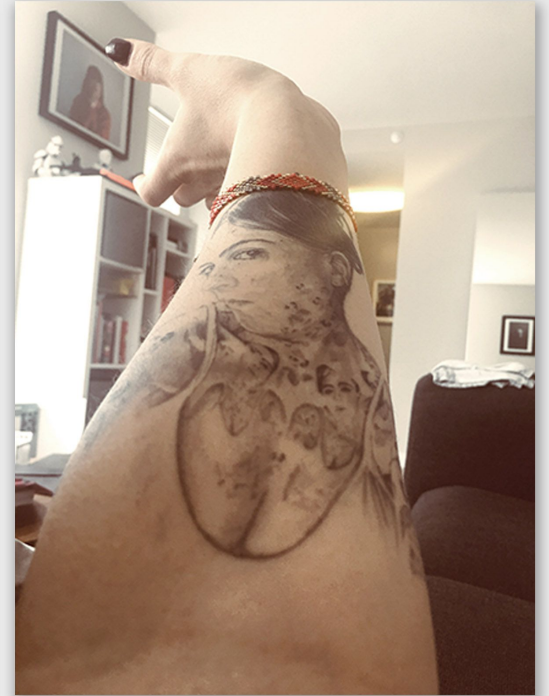
SELFIE
PROJECT



RESULT OF THE EXPLORATION INTO DIFFERENT TATTOO CULTURES. IREZUMI SELFING

SELFIE PROJECT

REAL SELFIE SESSION.



DELAMER ITUARTE

I characterize myself and become a gallerist named "Delamer Ituarte". She supposedly represents an anonymous artist who plants his/her pieces on the street.

The tour has been done already in Chelsea NY and Tacuba Street in Downtown Mexico City. Debris from the street that can be confused with trash or industrial objects, are analyzed as true works of art, created by this artist, or artists (not known) that represents Delamer.

Delamer Ituarte does not care about the monetary value of the pieces, since they are not for sale, and the artists she represents also do not care about fame, since he/they are anonymous. This project does not seek to satirize the world of contemporary art exactly, but seeks to question what makes a work of art become a work of art, a pure invitation to immerse the audience into a world of interpretation by putting in game all pretensions.

You can go to YouTube and check out "Delamer Ituarte" to see the tours of this wonderful gallerist and interviews.

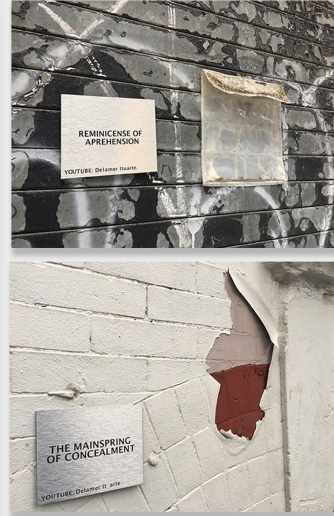
CHARACTERIZATION



DELAMER ITUARTE EXPRESSING HERSELF

DELAMER ITUARTE

SOME PIECES OF THE NYC AND MEXICO TOUR



DELAMER IN ACTION



INTERVIEW WITH FEDERICO MENDOZA AT MUSEO DIEGO RIVERA CDMX

BECOMING GREEN TARA

This project arose from my exploration within Buddhism (which I have been studying for the past two years). I characterize myself as a female Buddha called Green Tara. I have gone to several places characterized by her; I have gone to the subway, I have gone to clubs, meetings, school, traveled by ferry etc.

I not only try to imitate her physically, but I try to tune in with her mind, I try to be present with the help of her mantra and engage into paying special attention to everything. At the end of the day all the Buddha's are enlightened minds, Tara is the Buddha of action and wisdom.

I would love to have a constant meditation practice and learn to solve everything in my life arising from wisdom within my actions.

This project more than a performance, is part of my spiritual practice; I try to tune in the Tara mind even if I am not wearing the costume.

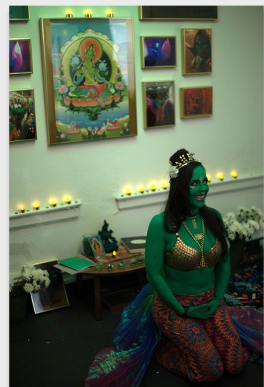


TARA PORTRAITS

BECOMING GREEN TARA



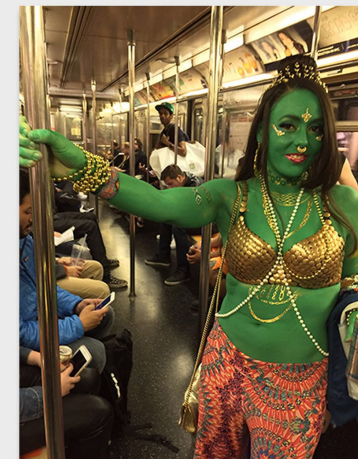
TARA AT SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS



TARA IN SHRINE



CONNECTING WITH PEOPLE



TARA IN THE CITY

THE WORLD IS YOUR REFLECTION

Last year, without any specific idea, I started to collect all the bottles of my spinning classes, until I came up with the idea of doing an installation with them. I turned the bottles into flower pots with a home-made self-irrigation system, dividing each bottle in half where by means of a thread the plant gets water arriving from the bottom of the bottle; the thread rises through the entire pot until it ends in a reflecting helium balloon. This installation is a metaphor based on Buddhist philosophy, where we talk about the idea that the world we experience is a mere reflection of our mind. The water in the bottom of the bottles represents all those things with which we nourish ourselves (or undernourished) day by day; the grass represents life; the thread represents that energetic and spiritual channel, the conductor that makes the connection between mind and matter; Finally, the balloons represent the world, which is going to reflect exactly what we want, in this case, all the bottles with grass under the balloons.

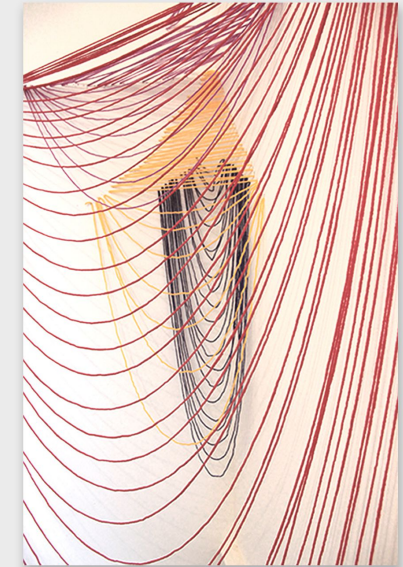


STRING PIECES

I get involved in an active meditation with this series of string pieces. If my mind is tense and full of noise, I cannot tense the string straight. If my mind is relaxed and focused, the string becomes straight and steady. These pieces are a great exercise for observing my mind. If I don't take responsibility for my thoughts, what am I going to offer to the world? I wish this could always be something beautiful.

The next pieces that I want to do following this series will be using 100% natural threads from the mountains of Oaxaca or Chiapas.

A future project I would love to carry out consists of integrating myself into some community and really learning the technique of threading. After living for two months with this community I would return to my studio and combine the techniques I learnt with my creativity and see what comes out of that effort. This project excites me because it is an opportunity to connect with my Mexican heritage.



STRING PIECES

