

# DOSSIER



## RUBEN RODRIGUEZ

Painter | Serigrapher | Contemporary Artist

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## Biography

1959 Born in Cardenas, Matanzas (Cuba). Lives and works in the United States.

1975 Graduated from the Provincial School of Plastic Arts. Villa Clara, Cuba.

1980 Graduated from the National School of Plastics Arts (ENA). Havana, Cuba.

1984 Founder of the Experimental Serigraphy Workshop "Rene Portocarrero". Havana, Cuba.

1998-2001 Professor of Serigraphy in the Higher Institute of Art (ISA), Cuba.

2007 Distinction for National Culture. Havana, Cuba.

## Statement

The female figure has always been the absolute protagonist of my paintings, drawings and engravings. As a man and as an artist, I sincerely admire and respect a women's capacity for procreation. I see motherhood as an act of sublime beauty, along with the delicacy and sensuality that emerges from the naked female body. That's why breasts are an omnipresent symbol of fertility in my visual repertoire. As a result of my creative process, my characters are always anonymous, headless, and ambiguous in their physical appearance, since I'm interested in preserving the identity of my muses. I also value the limits of individual's desire as a stimulus for the erotic imagination.

My body of work is defined by a fundamental interest for the contour lines that not only define the bodies in their complex hybridizations, but also determines the context and the current circumstances in which I live. At the same time, they represent my personal archive of desires, memories, and obsessions linked to the notion of destiny, in its quality of unpredictable and finite cycle. For all these reasons, I think that my work is enigmatic in its simplicity and its high level of suggestion, which activates in the viewer ontological questions, related to the human condition and its permanent struggle against loneliness, as well as ideas about love and sex.

## Selected Solo Exhibitions

2018 Sensual Delights. Adelmo Art Gallery. Miami, US.

2017 Secret. Villa Manuela Gallery. Havana, Cuba.

2015 Good Shadow. 12th Havana Biennial, Cuba.

2012 Sands of Desire. 11th Havana Biennial. Havana, Cuba.

2009 Take It Easy. 10th Havana Biennial, Cuba.

Four Cats. La Acacia Gallery. Havana, Cuba.

2008 Busy Beds. Origenes Gallery. Havana, Cuba.  
 2006 Amulets. Palace of the Count of Lombillo Gallery. Havana, Cuba  
 2005 Black and White Drapery. Villa Manuela Gallery. Havana, Cuba.  
 2004 Cuban Erotic Art. The Avenue 50 Studio Gallery. Los Angeles, US.  
 Proverbs and Initiations. Havana Gallery. Havana, Cuba.  
 2003 Double Forms. Espacio 304 Gallery. San Juan, Puerto Rico.  
 Reflexes. Museum of Colonial Art. Havana, Cuba.  
 2002 Robes. René Portocarrero Gallery. National Theater. Havana, Cuba.  
 Graphics. Gallery of the NH Central Park Hotel. Havana, Cuba.  
 Silhouettes. Pequeño Espacio Gallery. National Council of Plastic Arts. Havana, Cuba.  
 2001 Drawings and Paintings. La Acacia Gallery. Havana, Cuba.  
 Memory. Contact. Remembrance. Lausin & Blasco Gallery. Zaragoza, Spain.  
 1994 Inner Way. Old Square Gallery. Havana, Cuba.  
 1992 Drawings and Paintings. Tate–Tate Gallery. Madrid, Spain.  
 1991 Crypt. Havana Gallery. Havana, Cuba.

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

2019 Sex, Design, Metonymy. Kendall Art Center. Miami, USA.  
 2018 Dialogues and Alliances. Collage Habana Gallery, Havana, Cuba.  
 2017 To Cuba. Alex Gallery. Washington D.C, US.  
 Without Masks. National Museum of Fine Arts. Havana, Cuba.  
 2016 A New Dawn. Gode and Code Fine Arts, NY, US.  
 2015 AB&C. Masters of Generation. 12th Havana Biennial. Havana, Cuba.  
 2013 Seven-7. Royal York Gallery. Toronto, Canada.  
 2012 AB&C Masters of Generation. 11th Havana Biennial. Havana, Cuba.  
 2011 Art Moscow. International Art Fair. Moscow, Russia.  
 Oltre il Mediterraneo. Several Cultural Spaces. Bari, Italy.  
 2010 Face down. La Acacia Art Gallery, Havana, Cuba.  
 Cuban Plastic Artists. PEREZ-VAL Gallery. San José, Costa Rica.  
 In the Sighting Pole. Siranga Art Gallery. Valencia, Spain.  
 No Masks: Contemporary Afro-Cuban. Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa.  
 Confluencias Inside. National Hispanic Cultural Center, New Mexico, US.  
 Cuban Contemporary Art. Habana Art Gallery, Bremen, Germany.  
 2009 Erotic Art. Enmarcarte. San Jose, Costa Rica.  
 Cuban Contemporary Art. Modern Art Gallery. Amsterdam, Holland.  
 Colors of Cuba. Art Affair Gallery. Regensburg, Germany.  
 Cuban Contemporary Art. Wifredo Lam room, Cuban Embassy. Bonn, Germany.  
 Exhibitions. Gora Art Gallery, Internet Virtual Gallery at <http://www.gallerygora.com>  
 Cuban Art. A trace in the island time. Ehrenhalle des Rathauses, Nuremberg, Germany.  
 Nostàlgia de futur. Homenatge a Rena. Centre del Carmen, Valencia, Spain.  
 Zeitgenössische Kunst aus Kuba. Nürnberg-Bonn, Germany.  
 The Expanded Island. Andalucía, Spain.

- Crisis. Pabexpo, 10th Havana Biennial. Havana, Cuba.  
Pure Coincidence. Pabexpo, 10th Havana Biennial. Havana, Cuba.
- 2008 Valoarte. National Gallery, Children's Museum. San Jose, Costa Rica.  
The Rupture Generation. Tataya Art Gallery. Merida, Yucatan, Mexico.  
Confluences Inside. Art Museum of Zapopa. Jalisco. Mexico.
- 2007 Confluences Inside. José Luis Cueva Museum. Mexico City, DF, Mexico.  
Confluences Inside. Modern Art Museum of Toluca, Mexico.  
Confluences Inside. Jesús Gallardo Gallery. Culture Institute. Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico.  
Confluences Inside. Juárez Institute. Universidad Autónoma de Tabasco, Mexico.  
Painters of the Millennium. Alovera Gallery. Madrid, Spain.
- 2006 New Territories. Arco 2006. Los Oficios Gallery. Madrid, Spain.  
New Territories. San Lucas Gallery. Madrid, Spain.  
Confluences Inside. Clavijero Palace. Morelia, Mexico.
- 2005 Annual Summary. Villa Manuela Gallery. Havana, Cuba.
- 2004 Cuban Art. Siena, Italy.  
Cuban Art. Huelva, Spain.
- 2003 Plastic Visions on Stained Glass Art. National Museum of Fine Arts. Havana, Cuba.  
Contemporary Cuban Art. Art Center of Getafe. Madrid, Spain.  
Current Cuban Painting. Guayasamin Foundation. Quito, Ecuador.  
31 Cuban Artists. Borde Rio Gallery. Santiago de Chile, Chile.
- 2002 Conciliation in the forties. National Museum of Fine Arts. Havana, Cuba.  
Contemporary Plastic Artists. Gallery Valanti. San Jose, Costa Rica.  
Cuban Influences. Commonwealth Club. London, UK.
- 2001 Made in Cuba. Cuba 513 Gallery. Madrid, Spain.
- 2000 First Erotic Art Salon. La Acacia Gallery. Havana, Cuba.
- 1999 The Multiple Trace. CENCREM. Havana, Cuba.  
Three from Cuba. Gummersbach, Germany.
- 1997 Six Cuban Artists. Tokyo Metropolitan Museum, Japan.  
Engravings and Serigraphs. Palma School of Arts. Palma de Mallorca, Spain.
- 1996 Cuban Art. Centre Culturell PTT La Source. Orleans, France.  
Seeing is Believing: Six Cuban Painters in Italy. Rome, Italy.  
Contemporary Cuban Art. National Museum of Fine Arts. Havana, Cuba.
- 1995 Cuban Art. Saint Dennis Hotel. Paris, France.
- 1994 Cuban Graphics. Carlos Olachea Gallery. La Paz, Baja California, US.  
Serigraphs Exhibit. Pilar i Joan Miro Foundation. Mallorca, Spain.  
Graphics International Biennial. Maastrich, Holland.
- 1992 Serigraphs and Drawings. Kirov, Russia.  
Men at Work. Habana Gallery. Havana, Cuba.  
Color of Cuba. Art Room. Sevilla Expo. Sevilla, Spain.  
America'92. Gaudì Art Gallery. Madrid, Spain.
- 1991 Made in Cuba. Gallery Tate –Tate. Madrid, Spain.  
Workshop Heroes. René Portocarrero Gallery. Havana, Cuba.  
Fingerprint. Havana Art Gallery. Havana, Cuba.

1990 An Island Named Cuba. Rome, Italy.  
 UNEAC's Plastic Arts Salon. National Museum of Fine Arts. Havana, Cuba.

1989 Cuba in Joyful Colors. Sudan Art Center. Bagdad, Irak.  
 Contemporary Cuban Art. Westoeh Gallery. New York, US.  
 Homage to Jose Marti. Vigo Cultural Center, Spain.  
 Cuban Art. Tokyo Metropolitan Museum, Japan.  
 Today's Cuban Painting. Dunis de Samos Gallery. Madrid, Spain.

1988 Current Cuban Painting. Ponzano 16 Exposition Center. Zaragoza, Spain.  
 Cuban Papers and Canvases. Wifredo Lam Center. Havana, Cuba.  
 Current Cuban Painting. Barcelona City Hall. Barcelona, Spain.

1987 More than Twenty Aprils. Havana Gallery. Havana, Cuba.  
 1st Salon of Young Cuban Plastic Artists. Museum of Santa Clara, Cuba.  
 Cuban Painting. People Cultural Center. Madrid, Spain.  
 Cuban Painting. Chopo Museum. Mexico City, Mexico.  
 Cuban Serigraphs. Contemporary Art Museum. Tehran, Iran.  
 Paintings and Drawings. Galeano Gallery. Havana, Cuba.  
 Engraving Exhibit. National Museum of Fine Arts. Havana, Cuba.

1986 First Iberoamerican Biennial of Seriated Art. Interart. Varsovia, Poland.

1981 Five Youths. Las Palmas City Hall. Palmas de Canarias, Spain.

## Awards

2007 Distinction for National Culture. Havana, Cuba.

2000 Mention on the First Erotic Art Salon. Havana, Cuba.

1994 Mention Abanico Hispano Cubano 1994. Havana, Cuba.

1989 Special Mention at the City Salon. Havana, Cuba.

1988 Collective Prize Jaume Guasch Foundation. Barcelona, Spain.

1987 Prize at the Engraving Salon. Havana, Cuba.

1981 Mention on the 8<sup>th</sup> Young Plastic Arts Salon. Matanzas, Cuba.

## Collections

Kendall Art Center, Miami, Florida, US. | Luly Duke Fundacion Amistad. New York. US.

Avenue 50 Studio Art Gallery. L.A., US. | Pamela Bryan. New Orleans. US.

Octavia Art Gallery. New Orleans, US. | National Museum of Fine Arts. Havana, Cuba.

National Council for the Plastic Arts. Havana, Cuba. | Fondo de Bienes Culturales. Havana, Cuba.

La Acacia Gallery. Havana, Cuba. | Saratoga Hotel. Havana, Cuba.

Joan Miro Foundation. Palma de Mallorca, Spain. | Lausin Blasco Gallery. Zaragoza, Spain.

The Chapel of Man. Quito, Ecuador. | Guayasamin Foundation. Quito, Ecuador.

National Museum of Modern Art. San Jose, Costa Rica. | Museum of Modern Art. Lima, Peru.

Carlos Frigola. Lima, Peru. | Museum of Modern Art. Johannesburg, South Africa.

Geoffrey Shears. Commonwealth. London, UK. | Club Commonwealth. London, UK.

Chris von Chlierterssen. London, UK. | Dominique Soave. Cuba Plus International. Toronto, Canada. | Royal York Hotel. Toronto, Canada. | Guy Chartier. Toronto, Canada.

## International Events & Workshops

1999 Master classes, theoretical and practical course. ISA, Havana, Cuba.  
1997 Master classes, theoretical and practical course. Joan Miro Foundation, Mallorca, Spain.  
1996 Master classes, theoretical and practical course. Joan Miro Foundation, Mallorca, Spain.  
1995 Master classes, theoretical and practical course. Joan Miro Foundation, Mallorca, Spain.  
1994 5<sup>th</sup> International Encounter of Serigraphy. Rene Portocarrero Workshop, Havana, Cuba.  
1993 Creation of serigraphy workshops. Havana, Cuba.  
1990 Sericuba'90. Rene Portocarrero Workshop (RPW), Havana, Cuba.  
1987 3<sup>rd</sup> International Encounter of Serigraphy. RPW, Havana, Cuba.  
1985 2<sup>nd</sup> International Encounter of Serigraphy. RPW, Havana, Cuba.  
1984 1<sup>st</sup> International Encounter of Serigraphy. RPW, Havana, Cuba.

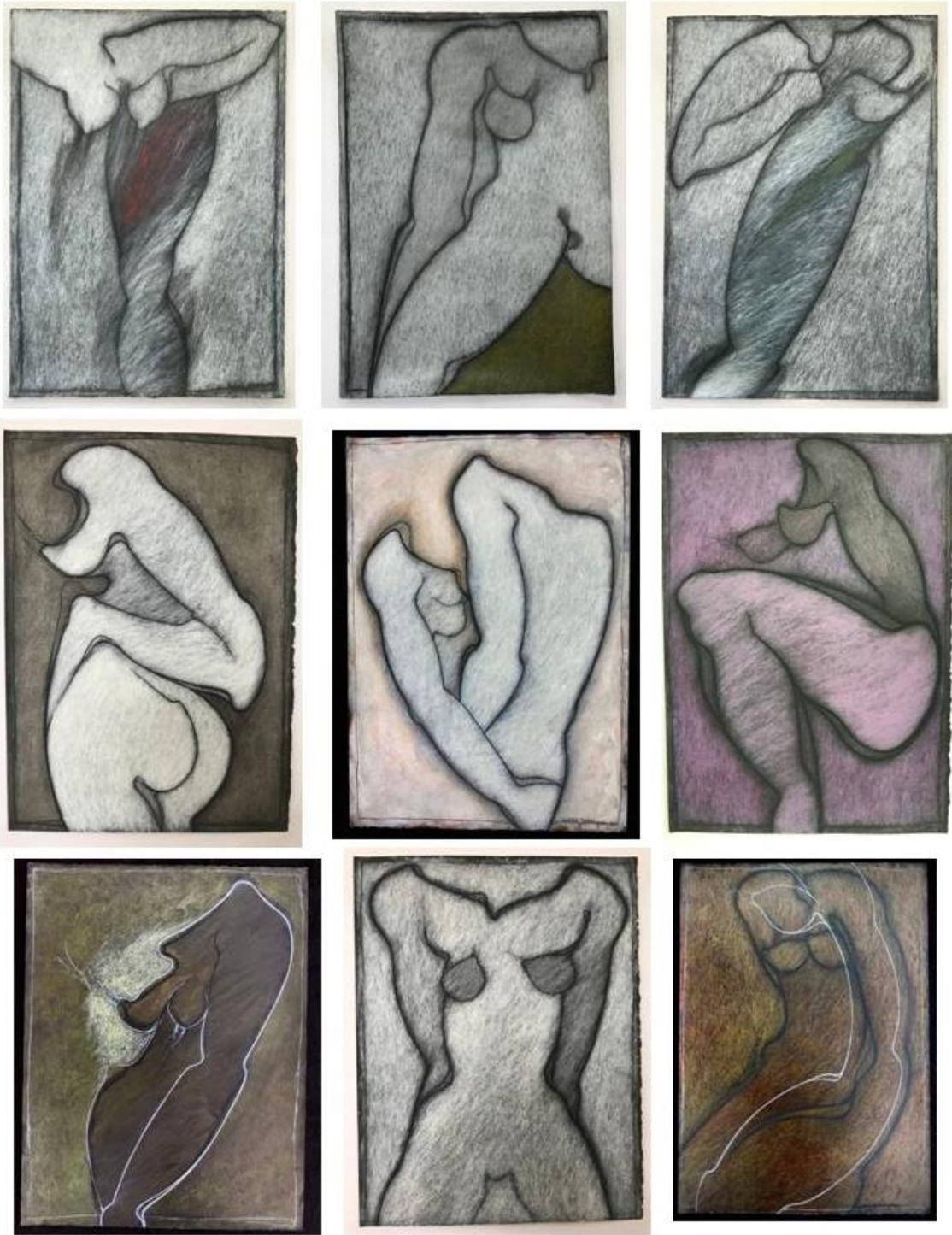
## Published Texts:

### Catalogs | Magazines | Books

- 2021. Sucesivas (trans)formaciones de la carne. Diversidad corporal y psicoanálisis en la obra de Rubén Rodríguez © RUBENS RIOL.
- 2019. Change and Lust. © ALDO MENÉNDEZ.
- 2019. El diseño como expresión artística. © DENNYS MATOS.
- 2018. Los erogíficos de Rubén Rodríguez. @ NOEL ALEJANDRO NÁPOLES GONZÁLEZ.
- 2016. Adventures of the Body. © ANTONIO FERNÁNDEZ SEOANE.
- 2016. Lines of Desire. © ANTONIO FERNÁNDEZ SEOANE.
- 2016. Ruben Rodriguez in Arche Gallery. © ANTONIO PÉREZ SANTOS.
- 2010. Cuban Artists Speak to World. Cultural Differences Prove no Barriers. © W. PULKKA.
- 2009. The Expanded Island. © ALDO MENÉNDEZ.
- 2008. Allegory for Busy Beds. © MARIA MILLIAN.
- 2008. Cuando un grito de auxilio es solicitud de placer. © RUBENS RIOL.
- 2006. Amend for the Servant. © RUFO CABALLERO.
- 2005. Black, Red, and White Drapery. © ARGEL CALCINES.
- 2004. Under Pressure. © ORLANDO HERNÁNDEZ.
- 2004. Possessive Look to the Work of Ruben Rodriguez. © ARGEL CALCINES.
- 2003. Ruben Rodriguez and His Encounters with God Eros. © RAFAEL ACOSTA DE ARRIBA.
- 2002. Eros and Contention. © VIRGINIA ALBERDI.
- 2002. The Huge Eroticism of a Minimal Line. © ANDRÉS D. ABREU.
- 2001. The Odd Harmony of Uncommon. © YOLANDA WOOD.
- 2001. Espacios rebosantes de oscuridad. © CHUS TUDELILLAS.
- 1991. Cripta. © TONI PIÑERA.
- 1991. Cripta de Rubén Rodríguez © ORLANDO HERNÁNDEZ.

# ***SAMPLE OF WORK***

*Each of these artworks represents tormented and lonely souls during the pandemic.*



All pieces are untitled, acrylic and charcoal on cardboard, 28 x 20 inches, made in 2020.



**Image credit from top to bottom and from left to right:**

*"Vuelo más alto"* 2020, 61 x 46 inches, acrylic and charcoal on canvas.

*"Ramo de sombra"* 2020, 61 x 46 inches, acrylic and charcoal on canvas

*"Almas"* 2020, 61 x 46 inches, acrylic and charcoal on canvas.

*"Untitled"* 2020, 70 x 50 inches, acrylic and charcoal on cardboard.

*"Loto rojo"* 2020, 61 x 46 inches, acrylic and charcoal on canvas.

*"Caricias oscuras"* 2020, 61 x 46 inches, acrylic and charcoal on canvas.

*"Untitled"* 2020, 70 x 50 inches, acrylic and charcoal on cardboard.

*"El soplo"* 2020, 61 x 46 inches, acrylic and charcoal on canvas.

*"Untitled"* 2020, 70 x 50 inches, acrylic and charcoal on cardboard.



**Image credit from top to bottom and from left to right:**

*"Reservada"*, 2020, 61 x 42 inches, acrylic and charcoal on canvas.

*"Tierno abrazo"*, 2020, 61 x 42 inches, acrylic and charcoal on canvas.

*"Espíritus ajenos"*, 2020, 61 x 42 inches, acrylic and charcoal on canvas.

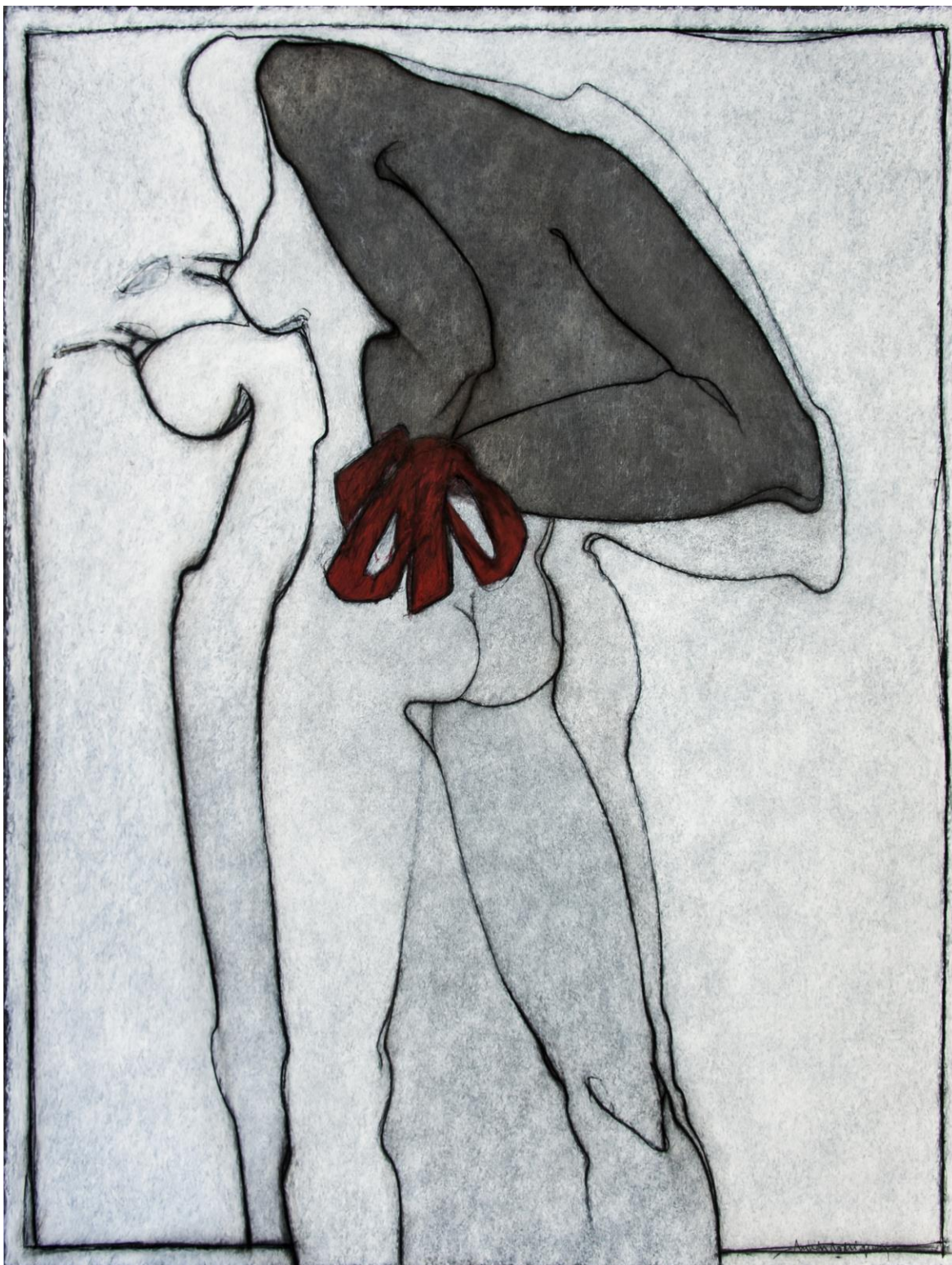
The rest of the pieces are untitled 28 x 20 inches acrylic and charcoal on cardboard made in 2020.

*The body acts like an arrow. We need to be prepared for the unexpected.*



*"Por si acaso", 2017, 79 x 59 inches, acrylic and charcoal on canvas.*

*Our shadow can be good or bad, but it always walks with us. We only lose it when we die.*



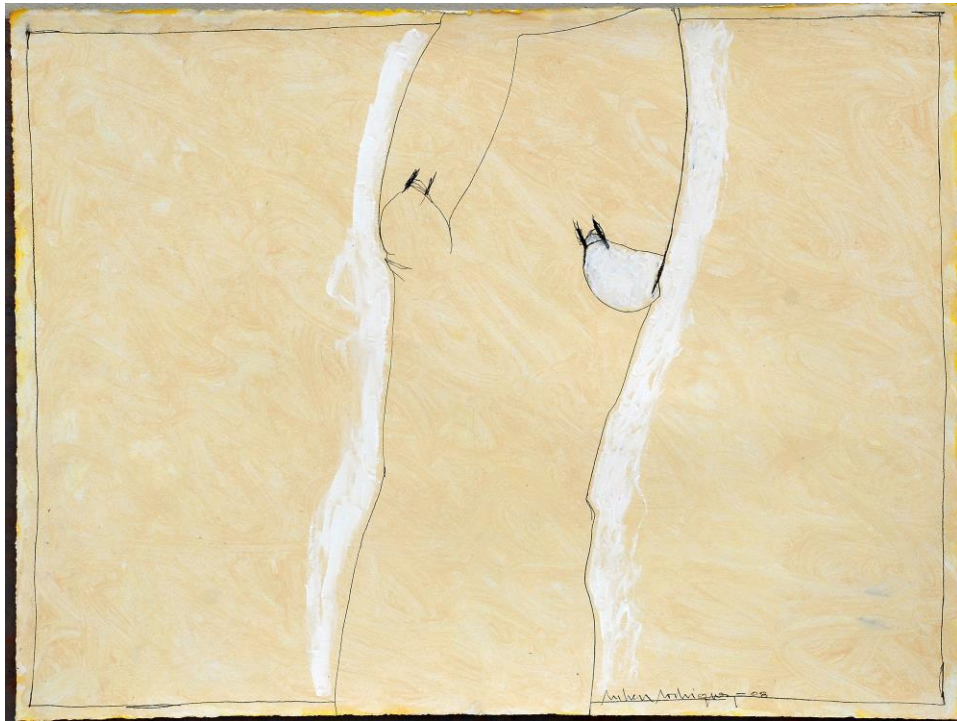
*"Sombra atada" 2015, 61 x 46 inches, oil and charcoal on canvas.*

*Each individual is sexually ambivalent. Male and female are deeply connected.*

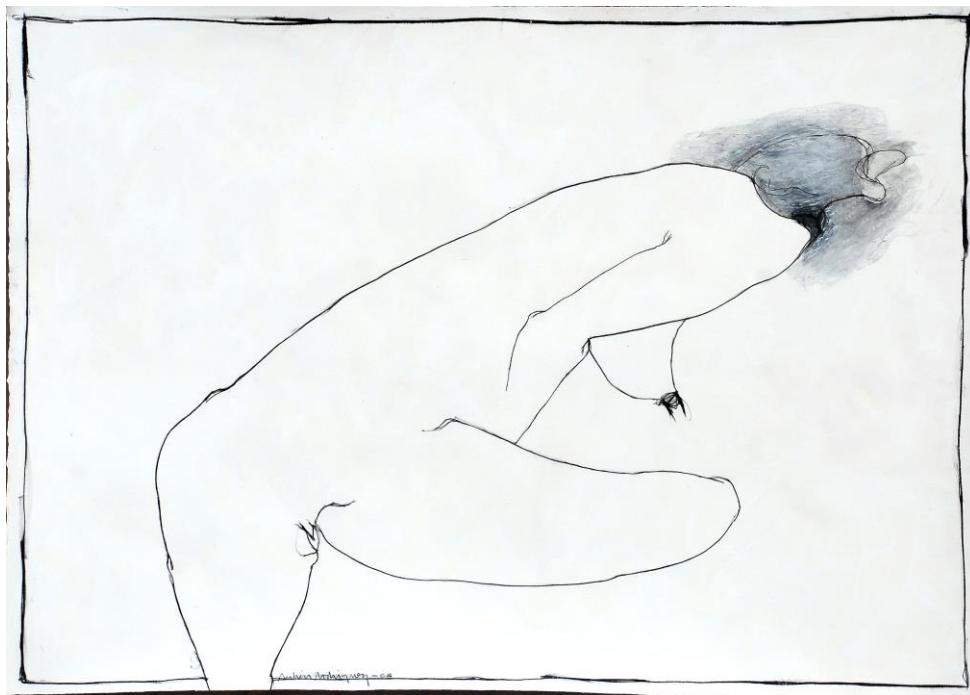


*"Con su sombra", 2012, 71 x 59 inches, oil and charcoal on canvas.*

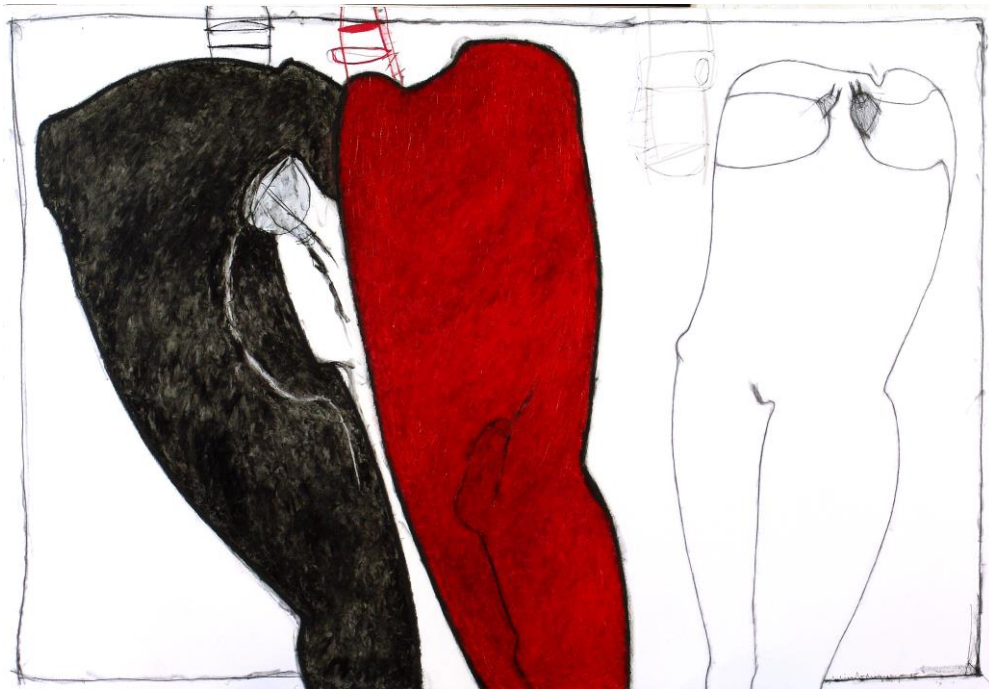
*Even sick bodies are still desirable.*



*"Paquita", 2008, 30 x 40 inches, oil and charcoal on cardboard.*



*"Tosca y pura", 2008, 30 x 40 inches, oil and charcoal on cardboard.*  
Folklore and religion are part of everybody's life.



*"Cortar los paños", 2005, 28 x 40 inches, oil and charcoal on cardboard.*



*"Untitled", 2005, 28 x 40 inches, oil and charcoal on cardboard.*