



PRESS RELEASE
EXHIBITIONS

MINIA BIABIANY

J'ai tué le papillon dans mon oreille / I killed the butterfly in my ear

ÁLVARO BARRIOS

El Mar De Cristóbal Colón / Christopher Columbus's Sea

JANUARY 31 > JUNE 7, 2020

JANUARY 30, 2020 - The Night of Ideas: *Alive in the Caribbean*

JANUARY 30, 2020 - Exhibition opening

Following up on the exhibition *I Remember Earth*, the MAGASIN des Horizons continues to explore ecologically engaged art practices. Interweaving poetry and politics, the Grenoble art center foregrounds the environmental awareness of predominantly female artists.

Minia Biabiany's exhibition approaches the issue of ecology from a non-Western, and more specifically Caribbean, perspective. Thanks to its poetic, ephemeral form, the artist's work forces us to take a closer look at previously ignored aspects of French colonial history, which is perpetuated through pernicious acts of covert violence.

Featured concurrently, the exhibition of Álvaro Barrios's work brings the discussion to focus on the history of bloodshed in the Caribbean region.

The Night of Ideas will offer us an opportunity to address the issue of *Alive in the Caribbean*.



EXHIBITION

*J'ai tué le papillon
dans mon oreille*

MINIA BABIANY

Minia Biabiany's oeuvre forges a dialog between the exhibition space and a meticulous installation of objects she fashions in-situ. She constructs her works from scrap materials or those derived from vernacular practices. Here, she invites the visitors to a sound-based corporeal journey toward a beyond—the beyond of her

archipelago, the Caribbean.

Minia Biabiany weaves intricate connections between all her installations. The conclusion of one is the beginning of the next, as if she were drawing an "exquisite cadaver." Her latest video *Toli Toli* (2018) ends with the following words: "Butterflies provoke blindness when they blow in your ears." *I killed the butterfly in my ear* thus takes blindness as its starting point. The inability to see brings on the realization that we have lost the knowledge of our own land. This loss is the consequence of long-term policies of assimilation, of the powers in place which support forgetting, and of disconnectedness from our environment. Minia Biabiany's exhibition compels us to feel and think differently, to perceive the flow of air, and breathe new life into repressed narratives. Being able to see and think; to think and feel.

Deliberately organic, her installations combine rallying words and sounds of lambi shells, the repetition of which carries us

forward like a refrain. Transported by the wind, these words, images, and sounds lend voice to stories in motion. In her video *Pawol sé van*, Minia Biabiany subverts the Creole expression, "pawol sé van"—words are wind—and turns it inside out. The story we hear is told in the first person singular in order to reestablish a connection between humans and their environment, the earth.

Feeling and thinking* are the two facets of the methodology adopted by the artist to help us to realize that ecology does not trump decoloniality.

We must now set out into the future of worldwide ecology!

Minia Biabiany will present a second part of her work at La Verrière de la Fondation d'entreprise Hermès in Brussels, *Musa Nuit* from April 25 to July 4, 2020.

* *Sentir-penser avec la Terre: L'écologie au-delà de l'Occident [Feeling-Thinking with the Earth: Ecology beyond the West]*, Arturo Escobar



MINIA BIABIANY

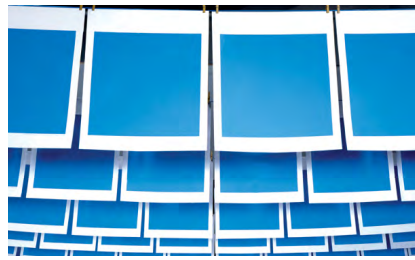
BIOGRAPHY

Minia Biabiany was born in 1988 in Basse Terre, Guadeloupe. She lives and works in Mexico and Guadeloupe. A graduate of the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Lyon, since 2011 she has participated in numerous group and solo exhibitions, including in France, Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia, Germany, and Sweden.

EXHIBITION OPENING / TOUR

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2020 • 7PM

On the occasion of the exhibition opening, Minia Biabiany and Béatrice Josse, director of the MAGASIN des Horizons, invite you to a dialogic tour of *J'ai tué le papillon dans mon oreille* (I killed the butterfly in my ear) et *El Mar De Cristóbal Colón* (Christopher Columbus's Sea).



EXHIBITION

El Mar De Cristóbal Colón / Christopher Columbus's Sea

ÁLVARO BARRIOS

Álvaro Barrios lends the Caribbean Sea a spatial dimension that had been charted and flattened by Westerners.

Inked in blue on the front and in bright red on the back, the silkscreen prints *El Mar de Cristóbal Colón* (Christopher Columbus's Sea) enlarge the subdivisions that compose the grid of a nautical chart and quantify the slaughter of native peoples and the exploitation of enslaved African population. The cartographic fiction comes undone. The mapmaker's victorious, dictatorial grid is blown up to bits.

Álvaro Barrios was born in 1945 in Barranquilla, Colombia, where he lives and works.



THE NIGHT OF IDEAS

Être vivant - e - s en Caraïbe / Alive in the Caribbean

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2020

• FROM 6:30 PM

In conjunction with the exhibitions, the Night of Ideas will offer different perspectives on, and stories of, the Caribbean. A veritable epicenter of modernity, the Caribbean has suffered all of its ills: the destruction of indigenous peoples and cultures; introduction of monoculture detrimental to biodiversity; slavery as well as political and scientific racism, which target especially women; and pollution of endemic soils and water. This event is an opportunity to listen, watch, and understand the contemporary issues through discussions with guest speakers: Malcolm Ferdinand, political scientist, environmental engineer, and the author of *Une Écologie décoloniale*; Stéphane Melyon Reinette, sociologist and artist interested in matrifocal societies and feminism in Guadeloupe; as well as the artists Minia Biabiany, Jean-François Boclé, and Nathalie Muchamad. The event will feature videos, workshops, and readings.

In partnership with the Institut Français, CASOMI, and the bookstore Les Modernes.

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OPENING HOURS :

Tuesday - Friday : 1-7 pm

Saturday and sunday : 2-9 pm

Open on holidays :

May 1st, 8 and 21, 2020

Free pricing

The MAGASIN des horizons, Centre national d'arts et de cultures, based in Grenoble, in the heart of the Alps, is an association governed by law of 1901, funded by the Ministry of Culture and Communication, DRAC Auvergne Rhône-Alpes, the Auvergne Rhône-Alpes Region, the Department of Isère, and the City of Grenoble.

Crédits visuels :

1 and 2. Minia Biabiany, 2019.

3. Alvaro Barrios, *El Mar Caribe*, 1971-2004, installation, 125 silkscreen prints.

4. The Night of Ideas, 2019. © Camille Olivier