



Installation artist
Teresita Fernández

Subject d'art

"Almost like a daydream." That's how up-and-coming artist Teresita Fernández, 31, describes what viewers experience when their eyes absorb the nuances of her interior landscapes.

The Miami-born, New York-based conceptualist has traveled from Texas to Tokyo displaying her alluring designs. Room-size installations are tempered with an eroticism and a humor that place this Cuban American among a new class of artists. Incorporating everything from drawing and cast plaster to simulated daylight and, occasionally, sound, Fernández's works evoke both sensuousness and isolation—leaving onlookers feeling at once voyeuristic and exposed. "It's about how the viewer occupies space without physically entering it," she explains.

While Fernández believes that the field of art, while less male-dominated, remains competitive, she has nonetheless succeeded in exhibiting her work worldwide on a regular basis. There have been two solo shows featuring Fernández's art at Manhattan's Deitch Projects, a gallery considered New York's unofficial showcase for hot newcomers. One of her particularly engaging installations—an empty swimming pool with reflective glass windows that line the walls—is now part of the permanent collection of North Miami's Museum of Contemporary Art.

How does she continue to create such stirring concepts? No single inspirational *refrán* fuels her; rather, she is driven by a lifelong commitment to a craft she loves. And although we may see the lush green of Cuba's *campiñas* reflected in this woman's eyes, a sense of longing for her ancestral home may not be what her designs convey. "[My cultural identity] is a part of who I am, but it doesn't affect my work," she states. Fernández's art effortlessly transcends culture—becoming what any viewer, in his or her daydreams, might envision it to be. *Michelle Longo*

Esta artista conceptualista nacida en Miami ha viajado por el mundo presentando sus fascinantes diseños: estructuras del tamaño de una habitación que se diferencian de la arquitectura formal por su erotismo y humor. Teresita mezcla dibujo, yeso, simulación de luz diurna y hasta sonidos, provocando en el espectador una mezcla de sensualidad y desolación, como un voyerista al descubierto. "El observador ocupa el espacio sin entrar en él físicamente", explica la artista.

Entre el repertorio de esta cubanoamericana de 31 años de edad, encontramos una piscina vacía, con vidrios espejados y transparentes, que forma parte de la colección permanente del North Miami's Museum of Contemporary Art. La obra de Fernández trasciende sin esfuerzo la cultura latina. Sus piezas son, más bien, lo que el espectador decida.

P.S.

Favorite book: *Sexuality & Space*, edited by Beatriz Colomina

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