1212ONDA

12/12/2022

Ruiz

**1116CLINIC TRT 0:00 SOC**

**From the KBIA newsroom in Columbia, I’m Kassidy Arena. Columbia is hosting the eleventh iteration of a traveling exhibition. “La Onda” is curated by two Latine artists from Kansas City. It focuses on exploring regional Latine heritage.**

**It’s currently showcasing at Stop Gap Projects gallery. In this exhibition, two local artists were featured with pieces that they say seek to explore what “Latinidad” means. Tadeo Ruiz spoke with the artists at the event.**

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[First Friday Nat sound]

There’s music and cheer in downtown Columbia as December’s first Friday rolls around. Shops light up as visitors get to experience the nightlife of downtown.

[First Friday fades into La Onda nat sound]

At Stop-Gap, there’s a different type of celebration happening. It’s “La Onda’s” grand opening where passers-by are engaging in deep conversation with the artists as they try and discover what “Latinidad” means through their artwork. I spoke with Cesar Lopez, one of the curators of the exhibit. He told me over the last two years these exhibitions have centered around the Latino experience. They have featured multiple artforms like photography, painting, sculpture and more.

***RUIZ: RT 00:06 “So how do you look at Latinidad and go like, ‘Okay this is an aspect I want to explore or how do you even define Latinidad?’”***

***LOPEZ RT: 00:13 “Yeah, no, that’s a really great question because really it’s not something I’m going out of my way to define. It’s a conversation that we have with every group of people. Every show has been different, every show has included new work every time.”***

**Alvarez: *RT*: 00:20 “My name is Sarah Alvarez, my pronouns are they/them and I’m here for the opening of La Onda which is a show that I’m in with Cesar. I made a piece called Degeneration. Essentially what it is is a receipt printer that is completely just repurposed as a sort of terminal basically for basically the documentation of sort of sentiments about Latinidad online. ”**

**[put some nat sound bed here]**

***Cano: RT: 00:30 “My name is Marina Graciela Cano and my pronouns are she/her. I was invited to be a part of the Latine group La Onda. The work that I’m showing today is off a TC2 digital Jacquard loom. It's a really interesting relationship between the machine and myself so I’ve depicted like my figure in the work. I took some of the iterations that I wove on it and made them into soft sculptures and tied like a knot.”***

***[nat sound bed]***

***Alvarez RT: 00:50 “So I think for me the more I’ve thought about it the more I’ve realized like as, especially as a white Latino specifically, Latinidad becomes this sort of like colonial leftover that kind of morphs itself into like this Frankenstein of colonial concept right? That is somehow not race but race, not ethnicity but ethnicity and not nationality but also nationality all at the same time, right? and It’s supposed to be expansive but it’s actually pretty restrictive.”***

***Cano: RT: 00:00 “The foundation of my work right now at the school is based on a concept called nepantla and it is Gloria Anzaldua’s theory and some of her scholarly work and in the writing she talks about this place of in-betweenness.***

***Cano: RT 00:00 It’s like about not abandoning the identity you’ve always kind of identified with. So I think of like the culture back home and being there but now I’ve left and come to a place very far from it: Columbia, Missouri. But it’s just to achieve something that I find a lot of value in which is my education.”***

[nat sound]

Walking away from the exhibit I have more questions than answers about my own Latinidad. I’ll probably go back to explore more at this exhibition until it leaves sometime early January.

I’m Tadeo Ruiz, KBIA news.