



recuerdo
ataala
ذاكرة
remembrance

Earrings of Shadow and Light

A Traveling Exhibition for the Missing, Murdered,
and Trafficked Women and Girls Around the World

Exhibition On View Starting April 15, 2016
977 1/2 Chung King Road, Los Angeles, CA 90019

Produced by AF3IRM

About the Exhibit

Recuerdo / Alaala / ذاكرة / Remembrance: Earrings of Shadow and Light is the first traveling art exhibition of its kind. This exhibition, presented by AF3IRM, pays homage to the millions of missing, murdered, and trafficked women and girls across the globe and features works from local and international artists, jewelry makers, musicians, and community members.

Across borders, earrings are ornaments that have been worn from pre-colonial times to the present with various purposes and significance, and in **Recuerdo / Alaala / ذاكرة / Remembrance**, they hold deep meaning. Earrings are typically worn in pairs; however, participants were asked to create just one earring as a tribute to a particular woman or issue. The single earring not only honors women's histories and experiences, but sheds light onto those whose stories have gone unheard, whose lives have been taken, and whose voices have been erased.

The exhibition seeks to remember women - not only with the visual story told through the earring displayed, but also through the void present within the incomplete pair. As transnational/women of color, we are all too familiar with the absence and disappearance of the lives and stories of women. The works on display seek to tell the stories and honor the women that history, the mainstream media, and so many within our society refuse to acknowledge. The various works will showcase the powerful artistic expressions of and responses to the transnational struggle of women and the fight for genuine liberation.

We bear witness to all of our sisters through this illumination of the earring displayed and the loss portrayed in its shadow. We know there is much to be learned from and found within the brilliance and darkness of women's existence.

The inaugural showing of the exhibition was coordinated and organized by the Los Angeles chapter of AF3IRM. After Los Angeles, the show will continue on to New York and other cities. Like our movement for women's liberation, the show will grow with each new location. Stay tuned to our website (www.af3irm.org) for the latest list of artists and works.

Special thanks to the exhibition team: Barbra Ramos, Sumaq Alvarado del Aguila, Ivy Quicho, Jollene Levid, Elisa Sol Garcia, Sasha Ali, and Marco Loera. Additional support was provided by Kyrie Salazar, Silvia Angulo, Skylar Perez -Grogan, Roxanna Sanchez-Avila, and other members of AF3IRM Los Angeles, as well as Eryk Sanchinelli.

The flyer for the exhibition features original art by AF3IRM LA's Iris Boncales-Strauss, which was reimagined for the flyer design by Barbra Ramos.

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Earrings of Shadow and Light WORKS ON DISPLAY



Alfie Ebojo aka alfienumeric (USA) •
Balagtasan Collective/Beatrock Art Kollektive
“Illumination Incantations”

This earring is dedicated to all Women that have been taken and made invisible, silenced, harmed and robbed of life.

This earring is a message to all Men; a prayer that whatever darkness plagues their heart is healed so they can see us for who we are. We are your Mothers, Sisters, and Partners. Honor us, protect us, love us, and never harm us.

{ alfienumeric.com | IG: @Gatitatatata }

Araceli Silva (USA) • House of Divinity
“Untitled”

Dedicated for any woman who has gone missing, whether physically or just symbolically, such as shutting down emotionally, your sisters and loved ones will seek for you and find you.

In a society where we are told to mind our own business, true warriors of love do not turn other way. We remember those who have suffered and hurt, go missing and become silent. In my piece, sadness is heard and people driven by love illuminate the darkness, hoping to bring light and lead those who are currently hidden.

{ aracelisilvajewelrycollection.blogspot.com/ | IG: @houseofdivinity }

Birdie Gutierrez (USA) • La Flor de la Resistencia
“Ni Una Mas!”

Anti-Femicidio - Ciudad Juárez, Mexico

The pink cross represents the crosses on the graves of mujeres who are murdered in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. The rose represents the mujeres, victimas de femicidio. The heart represents the corazones de las madres de las victimas.

{ FB: La Flor De La Resistencia | IG: @birdie111222 }

Carissa Louise Martin (USA) • Heart of Art
“Listen”

My piece represents the struggle within every individual alongside the undying necessity for affirmation.

Every hardship needs to be voiced and heard through compassion and understanding.

{ carissalouisemartin.com | IG: @carissalouisemartin }

Ceja (USA) • Arte Pipirisnais
“Forever Rooted”

Representing all womyn who have been disappeared and/or murdered for fighting for freedom.

“May mama earth embrace these warriors in their final resting place, transform their energy into resilient roots braided with the soil so their spirits become foundations for more rain forests, fruit trees, and nopales to grow on.

They don’t know we are seeds.”

{ carissalouisemartin.com | IG: @arte_pipirisnais }

Christina Elaine Vasquez (USA) • Heart of Art / Zilla
“Untitled”

Open

{ <http://www.zilla.haus.com> }

Diana G Galicia (USA)
“Tears No More” & “Roots Never Die”

Mujeres of Juárez and missing women in the world

My piece was created with diver find objects, a piece of a root, the hearts are from earrings that i have found in Mexico, Spain, and USA, and silver handmade barbed wire. The voice of a woman who has been silenced will always find a voice through another woman who will speak for her. I will be that voice.

Emilia García (USA)
“Corazon Ardiente / Burning Heart”

Mujeres de Juárez: In 1993, young women started disappearing and turning up in fields or dumpsters, mutilated, sexually abused and murdered. Many of the women were employees of the maquiladoras and disappeared while traveling to and from work. Other victims were teenage students. Poor and working class girls in Ciudad Juárez have been living in terror as the femicide continues.

My piece is not only to Honor Las Mujeres de Juárez but for all Women around the world who have been mentally and sexually abused, tortured, murdered, and/or disappeared. #StoptheViolence #NiUnaMas #NotOneMore

{ www.buranttortilla.com/ | IG: @buranttortilla }

Emilia Molinar (USA) • Heart of Art
“Lagrimas”

For the women of Juárez

My piece expresses the sympathy and the much needed lucha for these women of Juárez. It also expresses how I feel toward these women and me standing in solidarity with them. Ni una mas.

{ IG: @Gatitatatata }

Erin Yoshi (USA) • Trust Your Struggle
“It’s a Girl”

Gendercide of Baby Girls

Female infanticide has been known to take such forms as the induced death of infants by suffocation, drowning, neglect and/or exposure to danger by other means.

Sex-selective infanticide is caused by deeply embedded discrimination against womxn within systematic political, social and family structures.

This creates an unnatural gender balance in communities where as the lack of womxn has increased dangers including abductions and the sale of young girls

to secure as a wives, sexual violence, and the trafficking of girls from neighbouring countries.

Gendercide exists on almost every continent. It crosses class lines and religious affinities.

{ www.erinyoshi.com | IG: @erinyoshi }

Eva Suarez (USA)
“Why” & “Broken Wing”
Trafficked women

It's the question we all ask- why? Why me? Why like this? Why did this happen? Why this injustice? Why?

{ IG: @evaluation8 }

Genevieve Munroe (USA) • Heart of Art
“Wholesale Sex”
Human Trafficking

My mixed media earring piece represents the women who were affected by Human Trafficking. A woman is taped by her mouth with word/phases relates to prostitution. The XXX is cover her eyes of shame and despair. The blue splat on the piece is the color of human slavery awareness.

{ genevieveemunroeco.weebly.com | IG: @gene_munroe }

Iris Boncales-Strauss (USA) • AF3IRM Los Angeles
“Seeds”

Missing and murdered women in Ciudad Juárez, Canada and the United States

The names of missing and murdered women are written in tags attached to the veins/branches of the inverted Tree of Life. The golden beads represent the seeds or memories of their existence reaching up to the light. Writing their names brings awareness that these women and girls whose lives were stolen had individual stories that deserve to be remembered, so they are not lost in the shadows of statistics. They are our sisters and we are all connected under one sky.

{ IG: @irisinpala }

Guadalupe Parra (USA)
“Untitled”

Ivy Ney (USA) • Heart of Art

“FOUND ON THE GROUND”

**three weeks ago thersday, not far from the bus stop
where she was last seen**

*all female victims of abuse but with the Missing Women of Juárez
in mind*

‘one earring is all that was found’ - i wanted to make it large. kicked and trampled and walked upon, found in the gravel, almost all its shine is gone, with a hanger hook at the top, maybe the root of the problem.

Lady SoulFly (USA)

“Sad Girl”

Domestic Violence | Los Angeles/East LA

Domestic Violence - Gold Bamboo Doorknocker Earring adorned with 9 gold charms and 3 tear drops. 9 the number of transformation, 3 the number of time (past, present, future). The piece represents the loss of oneself when we keep silent about our abuse. The feeling of being trapped and the risks we think it may have if we speak up.

“There are ways of dying that don’t end in funerals. Types of death you can’t smell.” - Haruki Murakami

“...at last you’ll know with surpassing certainty that only one thing is more frightening than speaking your truth. And that is not speaking.” - Audre Lorde

{ IG: @LadySoulFly }

Leslie Kodama (USA)

“Untitled”

A single earring that belongs to a missing girl who’s not been identified or been found. Nobody knows where she is or where she’s from.

{ www.willowiswatching.com | IG: @sipwhorechata }

Lisa Rocha (USA) • ilaments

“Silent Revival”

The purpose of the single earring is in remembrance of all Mothers, Wives, Daughters, & Sisters who have been oppressed, lost and eradicated from existence. The void of the other pair serves as a testimony of their silent struggles, pain, political, economic, and spiritual injustices throughout time.

Every part of the design is placed as a metaphoric expression. The pearls are

a symbol of her wisdom. The flower placed above her represents all women's role as sustainers of life and direct connection as procreators of this universe. The encaged woman in the center symbolizes her voicelessness. The woman who can no longer speak her truth. The woman who has been silenced, raped, tortured, lost & disappeared. She is then juxtaposed dangling trumpets. Each one serving as her instrument to summon the masses. Reviving her inner voice that has been silenced and finally the sparrow. Bringing back her freedom, silenced beauty, silenced consciousness & wisdom. It is through all of these elements that her existence is revived.

{ www.ilaments.net | IG: @ilaments }

Mapache Jewelry (USA)

“Name All of Us”

This earring represents women of all cultures; mothers with their creation energy, children in all their innocence and femininity, and the elders in all of their wisdom. All of whom are subject to violence and in their soul's passage, those who are missing. The earring recalls the essence of their spirits. The spirits of all those missing but not forgotten.

This piece features Mexican milagros which are traditional Mexican folk charms of women. Some are pregnant, some are children, some are young women. All of whom represent the identities of the missing. The tiny beads are healing crystals. Jasper, emerald, and amethyst. Jasper crystals are the “supreme nurturers”, they sustain tranquility and wholeness during times of stress. Emeralds represent infinite patience. Amethyst is a protective stone promoting spiritual clarity and higher vibrations. To rise above the pain and seek solace through the wilderness that is for those left behind--of the missing.

{ www.etsy.com/shop/mapachejewelry | IG: @mapachejewelry }

Maribel Falcón (Tejas) • Colectiva Cós mica

“La Agradecida”

All feminine spirits

La Agradecida is a divine entity that cries, constantly. She cries for the state of our society, for all the injustice in the world, for every sister that is missing or found murdered, she cries for understanding that to be a feminine person in this world means enduring unjust pain and struggle. Although she cries for all that is wrong, she also cries for all that is right. She cries because there is food on the table and water to drink. She cries because the sun has risen once again and the moon can be seen in the sky. She cries because she has brothers and sisters by her side and the spirits of her ancestors to guide her path. She cries for our fragile existence in this life. These tears have healing powers, these tears clean the waters, replenish the rivers, and provide us with life. La Agradecida represents the feminine spirit in all of us. She is grateful.

{ www.colectivaosmica.com | IG: @mariexmachina }

Maria “Toofly” Castillo (USA/Ecuador) • Stay Tru ©

“Flor”

Handmade

The handmade embroidered flower earring was made as an inspiration of handmade culture a couple years ago. Part of the “native series” I produced for women reconnecting with handmade wearable works. By supporting handmade they can change the direction of machine made fashion goods to fashion goods made with meaning and care that supports local economies with women entrepreneurs.

I provided the piece for the exhibit in solidarity.

{ www.tooflynyc.com | IG: @Toofly_NYC }

Michelle Ramos (USA)

“Advocate, Stand with, & Defend”

The missing women around the world

I painted this piece to honor missing women worldwide. I wanted to convey the message that even though someone is missing it does not mean they have been forgotten.

MISMO (USA) • Heart of Art

“Bird Of Paradise”

Women with weight & body Image Disorder due to trauma

It is loud, it is bold, it is meant to be owned... just like self-esteem!

{ www.mismoart.com | IG: @mismoart }

Ms.3 (USA) • Heart of Art

“Heart of pain”

is the missing the found and the survivor

The message is to stand your ground fight back and protect the younger generation by being a strong woman showing the girls how to think for them selves through art music and love.

{ heartofartgalleryla.com | IG: @meat_glue }

Native Sol (USA) • AF3IRM South Bay / Native Sol
“Reflection of Broken Dreams”

This piece was inspired by the Missing and murdered Indigenous/ Aboriginal women and girls in Canada

The Dream Catcher originated from the Objibwe people that inhabited mostly the regions of Canada and part of northern United States. The dream catcher symbol later became adapted by other Native Tribes throughout North America as a symbol of unity.

I chose a dream catcher for this piece to represent the Indigenous missing and murdered women. It also symbolizes a dream that is shattered through the injustice, discrimination, and violence Indigenous women face in Canada. A dream that can no longer be full-filled because their lives are now taken.

Indigenous people only make up 4% of Canada's population but 16% of their female murder victims. Over 1200 indigenous women in Canada were missing/ murdered. The count is higher according to the affected communities. The Mirror represent reflection. When we look at the mirror we see ourselves, we see our reflection.

Our missing/trafficked/murdered indigenous sisters are a reflection of ourselves. They can be us, our sisters, our aunts, our family, neighbors, etc. The discrimination and injustice they go through is a reflection of our society and government.

The appalling number of missing/murdered Indigenous Canadian women is human rights violation that simply states that their lives don't matter and are devalued. But they do matter to us. We feel their pain, their families loss, and we see ourselves in their struggles. The Mirror is a symbol to remind us that these are our sisters. Let's not forget them. They are our reflection and we must honor their lives. The beads symbolizes the numbers of the thousand missing/lost lives times 2 or 5.

The Beads connect us all. Connects our struggles. The recycled leather feather has names of some of the Missing/Murdered women and girls of Canada from as young as ages 3 and up.

They are the several ones I chose randomly and some based on their story from articles I read. And they are only a few names out of thousands of victims. Let's honor our "stolen" Sisters.

{ www.nativesol.etsy.com | IG: nativesol }

Noelle Reyes (USA) • Mi Vida Boutique
“Media Luna”

The Disappeared Mujeres

The disappeared are never forgotten in light's projection. Full or half, the moon illuminates and reminds us to have trust in our process. Mujeres bring clarity and balance to existence. When linked together, we become brilliant.

{ www.shopmivida.com | IG: @noellereyes }

Ornitorrinco (USA)

“Untitled”

Missing/Murdered girls

This past summer a young girl who enjoyed playing outside and exploring the world around her went missing in the city of Santa Cruz. For 26 hours the community came together and searched for her. She was found dead in a garbage can. This young girl was only 8 years old. So much was taken from her from the moment her attacker took her life away. I have decided to make a lantern earring in memory of her and other young girls whose lives were taken from them, the lantern seen as a beacon from us to them as reassurance that they will never be forgotten.

{ IG: @ornitorrinco }

Patchouli Nomad (USA) • AF3IRM South Bay

“Their voices will be heard”

Woman who have died due to domestic violence.

The heart represents how universal this is. The crosses represent the women who have passed and transform into doves. On the back is an eye with tear.

The message “The doves carry her story at the perfect moment to the woman or women who will be their voice.”

{ www.etsy.com/shop/patchoulinomad1 }

Sara M Mah (Canada) • Asian Women for Equality

“remember and resist”

Women's equality

This photo-illustration features a single earring with a woman fighting for equality. In memory of the missing and murdered women, but also in recognition that our freedom is tied to that of all women, I collected single earrings from the women in my life that live in Montreal who were willing to contribute to the piece, as well as my own.

{ awcep.org | IG: @sarahmmah }

Starr Urias (USA) • Heart of Art

“Feeling My Eternity”

remembering the lost and the missing

No matter where I am, or what is happening ...you can't take away my name... you can't take what I feel...my love...my heart...most of all...the memories of me in those who remember who I am and love me.

{ IG: @starrurias }

Susy Chávez Herrera (USA)

“Sembremos Sueños y Cosechemos Esperanzas”

*“...hermanos, hermanas,
abramos el corazón como una flor
que espera el rayo del sol por las mañanas,
sembremos sueños y cosechemos esperanzas,
recordando que esa construcción
solo se puede hacer abajo,
a la izquierda
y del lado del corazón.”*

*“...brothers, sisters,
let's open our hearts like a flower
waiting for the ray of sun in the morning,
let us sow dreams and reap
hope,
remembering that construction can only come from the bottom,
to the left,
and to the side of the heart.”*

Excerpt from a speech by Bety Cariño given February 2010 at the 5th Dublin Platform for Human Rights Defenders.

Alberta “Bety” Cariño Trujillo was an indigenous, Mixtec, human rights activist, environmentalist, and director of CACTUSA (Centro de Apoyo Comunitario Trabajando Unidos - Center for Community Support Working Together). Through CACTUSA she organized indigenous women and was an advocate for food sovereignty, community water management, soil conservation and the right to autonomy for indigenous people in Mexico.

In December 2006, after the Oaxacan rebellion and the government repression, Cariño was forced to temporarily flee Oaxaca because of threats to her well being.

Cariño was killed by paramilitaries on April 27, 2010 while on a human rights mission to deliver food and water to the indigenous autonomous community of San Juan Copala, in Oaxaca, Mexico. The human rights caravan, which included Finish human rights activist Jyri Jaakola who was murdered along side Bety Carinño, was attempting to break a paramilitary blockade supported by the state government that had blocked all access to San Juan Copala, leaving community as prisoners in their own homes and unable to access food.

As of today, no one has been charged in the death of Alberta Cariño Trujillo.

Mixed media including – black beans, huaje seeds, jade, metal, wood, string, gold plated wire, silver plated milagro.

The piece was inspired by Bety Cariño, a fearless indigenous woman, human rights activist, sower of dreams, and builder of a world where many worlds can live and coexist.

Bety Cariño was killed six years ago and no one has been brought to justice. To highlight this, the number six became an element that is repeated throughout the piece.

The seeds and colors I chose are a reminder of La Mixteca, where Cariño was from and where the Ñuu sávi are divided by three different states including Oaxaca, Puebla, and Guerrero.

While making this piece I listened to Bety's speech at the Dublin Platform for Human Rights Defenders, which was given just two months before her murder. The speech is a powerful reminder of Bety's commitment to her people, el pueblo Ñuu sávi, the rights of indigenous communities, her love for mother earth, her connection to the ancestors, and her commitment to build a world for generations to come.

"...un mundo donde quepan muchos mundos
nosotros, nosotras somos el resultado de muchas luchas
llevamos en la sangre
la herencia guerrera de nuestras abuelas,
nuestras raíces, nos los exigen
y nuestras hijas nos lo gritan..."

"...a world where many worlds fit
we (male), we (female) are the result of many struggles
we carry in our blood
our grandmothers' warrior heritage,
our roots, require it
and our daughters demand it..."

Tanzila "Taz" Ahmed (USA)
"Made In Bangladesh Series"
Bangladeshi, Garment Workers, Labor

These series of earrings represent the labor of the Bangladeshi women in the garment industry - and are part of a longer series of multimedia artwork that Taz has been putting out since the Rana Plaza collapse in Dhaka on April 24, 2013. Women make up about 80% of the industry and make some of the lowest wages in the world - \$68. The paper dolls are cut from the currency in Bangladesh called "thaka". The chain is created from broken glass bangles worn by the local women and re-bent with candle fire. The hanging needles represent all the lives hanging precariously in this industry. The "Made In Bangladesh" signs are to replicate the tags that the Western world finds innocuously sewn to the back of their shirts and no real understanding of what it took to get there.

{ www.tazzystar.blogspot.com | IG: @tazzystar }

T'uy't'ananat - Cease Wyss of the Squamish First Nation (Canada)

“Shut Up & Paddle”

Indigenous Women who have been murdered or are missing, from various nations throughout Turtle Island, from many walks of life.

“Shut up and Paddle!”

A common phrase in the canoe families of the Pacific Northwest Coast, and the title of this work. This is what the paddlers say to each other when they are paddling through tough waters, to get through the hard parts of their journey. They often sing and share stories when the waters are calm and easy to paddle through. When they are facing adversity, they need to focus and save their breathe to get through the hard parts.

The single paddle represents a missing or murdered indigenous woman and the many paddles attached to the cedar rope with sinew, are the many family members and friends who are left behind and seeking justice and enquiries on their behalf. The Cedar Rope is attached to a Gold Earring and represents destruction of the natural world through resource extraction and how mining companies rape our sacred Mother Earth and how often there are deaths and abductions of indigenous women and girls, associated in areas close to where resource extraction occurs. The paddles and the rope are made of Cedar... The Tree of Life...

I spent many years working with women in prison who were mostly there because they fought back in abusive relationships, or were criminalized as a result of poverty and disenfranchisement of their identities and cultures, and from working in the sex trades. They were strong women who had big hearts and kind spirits. Many of the women I met there were later murdered by Robert Pickton. They were friends that I made through the prison outreach work I was doing at BCCW [Burnaby Correctional Centre for Women]. I met them through my volunteer work with “Joint Effort”, a radical group of women who volunteer in prisoners’ rights related activities. The women I knew who have gone missing and who have been murdered, were all Warrior Women. I dedicate this earring to all of these women who have gone missing, been murdered and for all of those fighting to bring justice and enquiries to their deaths and the ongoing searches by those dedicated souls praying for justice for those women.

{ www.indigenousplantdiva.wordpress.com |
IG: @cedarcopperwoman }

YherCat • PIECES Arts Organization

“Broken...But Always Whole”

Human Sex Trade / Human Trafficking

My message is to both our recovered sisters and those still missing. In times when we feel Broken....always remember you are Whole and we will never give up our fight to bring you home.

{ www.inafeminineworld.com | IG: @YherCat }

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AF3IRM is a national organization of transnational feminist women of color with nine chapters across the country. Founded in 1989, AF3IRM's diverse, multi-ethnic membership recognizes the intersectionality of our struggles and is dedicated to the struggle of women's liberation and the fight against oppression in all its forms.

With the slogan "A Woman's Place is at the Head of the Struggle," we firmly believe in the absolute necessity of women's revolutionary resistance.



**JOIN THE FIGHT FOR OUR LIBERATION-
BECOME AN AF³IRM
MEMBER TODAY!**

CONTACT USA!

email | losangeles@af3irm.org
organizing@af3irm.org

website | www.af3irm.org

facebook | www.facebook.com/af3irm.national

twitter/instagram: @AF3IRM