

MURAL PROJECT: *PACIFICARIBBEAN*

JUAN ALBERTO NEGRONI



ABOUT THE SLO MUSEUM OF ART: The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA) is the heart of the California Central Coast visual arts community and a vital link to the cultural life of the region. Its downtown location and free admission make it accessible for all. SLOMA is located in downtown San Luis Obispo on the west end of Mission Plaza, at the center of the city's cultural corridor. Emphasizing exhibitions by contemporary California artists, the Museum also offers youth and adult art classes, lectures, film nights, concerts, and art events.

ABOUT THE MURAL: *Pacificaribbean* is a large-scale mural painted on four of the walls of the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, designed and executed by artist Juan Alberto Negróni. *Pacificaribbean's* concept is inspired by Juan's upbringing in the city of Bayamón near San Juan in Puerto Rico. His father worked at the Caribe-Hilton Hotel, a beautiful resort hotel that emulates the complex relationship between Puerto Rico's people and the economic and social influence of Western tourism. As a child, Juan and his siblings would sneak into some of the amenities of the hotel they were prevented from accessing such as the private beach, the pool, and most memorable for Juan, the private gardens. In Juan's work, representations of the lush local ecology of Puerto Rico capture a resilience of nature that beckons us to bravely encounter and embrace the unknown. For Juan, this work both hearkens to a nuanced nostalgia of the past and a longing to preserve the memories and experiences of our youth. For those of us who reside on the Central Coast of California, *Pacificaribbean* asks us to consider the safety, challenge, and longing of this moment and the memories of youth that connect us to each other and to our home. *Pacificaribbean* invites us to celebrate and cultivate a relationship between our inner landscapes and the landscape around us and, even amidst time of separation and grief, find

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windows of hope. Juan has been intentional about the relationship between the mural and the trees and natural environment visible above the Museum, creating an unlikely and unexpected symbiosis between our community and his.

This project will be paired with a catalogue of commissioned essays, an interactive element inviting the public to explore their inner landscapes through “prompt” questions, a series of programming with the artist and the community, and a custom print designed by the artist.

About Juan Alberto Negroni: Since his arrival in the United States, artist Juan Alberto Negroni has often been asked where he comes from, why he moved to Dallas, and how Puerto Rico compares to Texas. Despite his willingness to explain Puerto Rico's deep political, religious, and cultural history, he frequently finds there are certain topics words cannot properly describe. Through his artwork, Negroni has developed a visual language that mimics the multilayering of such answers and the idiosyncrasies of his homeland.

Juan Alberto Negroni possesses an MFA in Studio Arts from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX, an MA Ed in Art History and Museum Studies from Caribbean University, PR, and a BFA with a Major in Printmaking from Puerto Rico School of Fine Arts . He has had five solo shows, *The Defect Effect*, *If it weren't for my horse*, *Not About Beauty (Religion, Politics and other failures)* all in San Juan, PR, *Tiny Floral Show*, (curated by Danielle Avram and Ryan Goolsby), in Dallas, TX, and *A Midsummers Night's Dream at 18.2208° N, 66.5901° W*, Texas Woman's University, Denton, TX.

Negroni has participated in multiple group shows such as *Detroit: A Brooklyn Case Study*, SUPERFRONT LA, Los Angeles CA 2010, *Dialectic City*, curated by Carla Acevedo-Yates (w/Francis Alÿs, David Lamelas, among others), *Retro* at Caguas Museum of Art, *Muestra Nacional de Arts*, Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña, San Juan, PR, 2015 and 2018, *Art in America*, (Curated by Julie Torres) at *The Satellite Show* in Miami, FL, 2015 & Elizabeth Stone Harper Gallery, Harper Center for the Arts SC in 2016, *Kinds of Monuments*, (w/Christian Boltanski, Luis Camnitzer, Cai-Guo-Qiang, Robert Morrison, Alberto Burri, amongst others), Zattere Cultural Flow Zone, Dorsoduro, Venice, IT, *2da Gran Bienal Tropical* (curated by Pablo Leon de la Barra in Loiza, PR, *Home & Visitor* at Le Consortium, Dijon, FR, *Topologies of Excess: A Survey of Contemporary Practices from Puerto Rico* (curated by Emma Saperstein and Mariola Rosario), Harold J. Miossi Art Gallery, San Luis Obispo, CA, among many others. His practice has been documented in printed press and magazines like, ArtPulse, El Nuevo Día and PATRON Magazine. Recipient of the Meadows Artistic Scholarship Award 2015 and the 2017

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Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'art Dijon Residency Fellowship. His work is part of public and private art collections in Puerto Rico, United Kingdom, Argentina, United States, Canada, Australia and Greece.

[Juan Alberto Negroni's Website](#)

[Interview with Juan Alberto Negroni in Voyage Dallas](#)