

## CARLOS BAUTISTA BIERNNAY ARTIST'S STATEMENT AND BIO



### ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Life experiences and growing up in Chile during the regime of Augusta Pinochet crafted my sardonic attitude and a compulsion to create and sew. The events of 9/11 in New York city increased my propensity. How absurd that the military coup in Chile took place on September 11, 1973.

My art depicts a sharp point of view with a stark sense of humor that is a mixture of imagery from the ecclesial to pop-culture, along with references from art history, and memories from my youth and life events, combining a curious exchange of the profane, the pagan and the secular.

I am a perpetual maker of art and collector of materials and textiles. I adopted the art of quilt making when I studied in Maine. I resonate with Dadaism, creating textile collages, embroideries, drawings and paintings. Like Klimt I believe there is an unspoken thought that beauty is perhaps an answer or at least a consolation to life's absurdities.

### From curator **Suzanne Kachmar**

"Humans are blessed to have artists/empaths, like Carlos Bautista Biernnay, who are on this planet to hold a mirror to our actions, motivations and feelings. They absorb the pain and joy, the beautiful and the ugly. Their release is to synthesize what they have collected and to create art, the reflection of humanity. These creations are opportunities for all of us to meditate, assess our perceptions and motivations, remember our true heroes, and find the gentle hero within to heal and unite us, to work towards equity and empathy through acts of kindness, patience, and honest and respectful interaction."

### BIO: CARLOS BAUTISTA BIERNNAY

Carlos Bautista Biernnay was born in Chile 1969 and lives now between there and the U.S. His education includes, Portland Fiber Gallery (Portland Maine), Fashion Institute of New York (New York, New York) and Universidad Católica de Chile Diplomado en Pintura y Restauración. He exhibits in Chile, Brazil, New York, Maine and CT, such as ArtSpace New Haven CT, Brooklyn Project Space, Stitch Gallery and Portland Fiber Gallery in Portland Maine, Galeria Arraial d'Ajuda Salvador de Baiha Brazil, Taller Emilio Vaisse 561 Barrio Italia Santiago Chile and others. His art is in private collections in New York, Connecticut, Florida, Maine, Washington, Brazil, Chile, and Hungary.

## CARLOS BAUTISTA BIERNNAY- BIO continued

Carlos grew up enduring the hardships of the Pinochet military dictatorship in Chile. His father and grandfather both died by the time Carlos was 4 yrs. old. He was raised in a matriarchal family structure, where he learned to sew and watched the woman make clothing and other household items, out of the necessity to be resourceful under the harsh economic conditions.

He came to the United States and was confronted by the horrors of 9/11. Much of Carlos's work and his life has been affected by this date and the tragedy that took place both in US and in Chile. On Sept 11, 1973 a military coup took place in Chile, establishing the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet. Carlos he lived under that brutal dictatorship throughout his formative years, until he came to the NY to study art and he witnessed the fate of World Trade Center.

Although much of Carlos' work is rooted in tragedy, they are ironically joyful and lush. He melds a childlike playfulness, with his love of color, texture and textiles, and his absurdist perspective. He constructs dissonate compositions that include nostalgic mementos of his childhood like Felix the Cat or a favorite dog. He frequently inserts a manipulation of his self-portrait into his quilts.

Carlos identifies himself as a Dadaist and sees his personal life history and the irony of 9/11 as absurd. Through this perspective he manages to cope and express his personal life history and the harsh irony of 9/11, and find a balance with joy, creativity and his compulsive love to make textile collages and absurd embroideries. Humans are blessed to have artists/empaths, like Carlos Bautista Biernnay who are on this planet to hold a mirror to our actions, motivations and feelings. They absorb the pain and joy, the beautiful and the ugly. Their release is to synthesize what they have collected and to create art, the reflection of humanity. These creations are opportunities for all of us to meditate, assess our perceptions and motivations, remember our true heroes. As an absurdist, Carlos is not judgmental. His art is a touchstone that enables the viewers to think and feel for themselves.

