



## LUZ "LULU" PEÑA OCASIO

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Lulu Peña is an artist and certified artisan born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico during 1981. She grew up in a family very skilled in manual labor. This rich environment helped her develop her curiosity and creativity. She felt drawn to clay primarily because the versatility and malleability of the medium allows her to materialize what her three-dimensional mind imagines. Lulu obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology at the University of Puerto Rico (Rio Piedras Campus) and complemented it with courses in drawing, painting and ceramics (Prof. Manuel Pagán -2004). Later on, she completed studies in Interior Design and Decoration at the San Juan School of Interior Design (Hato Rey, Puerto Rico).

Lulu rediscovered her passion for art thanks to Puerto Rican renowned artist and mentor, Diana Dávila who was responsible also for reconnecting her with the medium of clay (2015). She has also taken courses with renowned ceramicists and potters such as Cristina Córdova, Toni Hambleton, Del Harrow and Courtney Martin. In her artistic practice she explores intrinsic issues of human nature such as memory, psycho-emotional processes and mental health. She also, has offered art workshops and courses to diverse audiences at Puerto Rico Museum of Art, Francisco Oller Museum (Bayamón, PR), Gruppo Italia (Guaynabo, PR) and recently at her studio. Her artwork is part of private collections and has been shown in several group exhibitions in PR. In 2022 Lulu was a recipient of the Cristina Córdova Studio and Penland School of Craft Internship where only two artists are selected. Lulu is currently working to create a body of work that will shape her first solo show in the near future. Lulu lives and works in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

### EDUCATION

- 2007 *San Juan School of Interior Design*, Interior Design and Decoration, Hato Rey, PR
- 2004 *Universidad de Puerto Rico*, Rio Piedras Campus, BA in Psychology, San Juan, PR

### ART COURSES

- 2023 *Reorienting*, Prof. Del Harrow, Estudio 154, Viejo San Juan, PR
- 2022 *Ceramic Workshop*, Prof. Cristina Córdova, Cristina Córdova Studio, Bakersville, NC
- Slab, Coil, Decorate, Fire*, Prof. Courtney Martin, Penland School of Craft, Bakersville, NC
- Lecture and Demonstration*, Cristina Córdova and Jaime Suárez, Viejo San Juan, PR
- 2018 *Diseño y Técnicas de Pintura sobre Cerámica*, Prof. Diana Dávila and Prof. Toni Hambleton, Gruppo Italia, Guaynabo, PR
- 2015 -2016 *Pintura Abstracta*, Prof. Diana Dávila, Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico, San Juan, PR
- 2002 *Introducción a la Cerámica*, Prof. Manuel Pagán, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, PR
- 2000 *Dibujo y Pintura Básica*, Prof. Rafael Rivera Ortiz, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, PR

### WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2023 – present Studio Private Classes
- 2023 – present *Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico*, Ceramics and Art Professor, Santurce, PR
- 2023 – present *Gruppo Italia PR*, Ceramics Professor, Guaynabo, PR
- 2022 *Liga de Arte de San Juan*, Students Contest Jury, Viejo San Juan, PR
- 2020 – present *Lateral Atelier Designers*, Consultant, Hato Rey, PR
- 2019-2020 *Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico*, Ceramics and Art Professor, Santurce, PR
- 2017 – present Studio Artist
- 2017 – 2020 *Diana Dávila Studio*. Studio Assistant, Guaynabo, PR

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Flota Cerámica 7ma edición*, Plazoleta del Banco Popular Center, Hato Rey, PR  
*Manifestaciones del Barro*, Betsy Padín Gallery at Liga de Arte, San Juan, PR
- 2023 *About Clay 2023*, Souvenir 154, Viejo San Juan, PR  
*Por Amor a la Liga 4*, Virtual auction of Liga de Arte, San Juan, PR  
*3er Encuentro de Ceramistas de Puerto Rico y la Diáspora*, Plaza las Américas, Hato Rey, PR  
*Día Internacional del Ceramista*, Virtual exhibition in DEBA'S Art Series Facebook Page, PR
- 2022 *Flota Cerámica 6ta edición*, Plazoleta Juan Morel Campos del Centro de Bella Artes, Santurce, PR  
*Por Amor a la Liga*, Virtual auction of Liga de Arte, San Juan, PR  
*2do Encuentro de Ceramistas de Puerto Rico*, Plaza las Américas, Hato Rey, PR  
*About Clay 2022*, Souvenir 154, Viejo San Juan, PR
- 2021 *Flota Cerámica 5ta edición*, Plazoleta Juan Morel Campos del Centro de Bellas Artes, Santurce, PR  
*Por Amor a la Liga*, Virtual auction of Liga de Arte, San Juan, PR  
*1er Encuentro de Ceramistas de Puerto Rico*, Plaza las Américas, Hato Rey, PR  
*Animalia*, Galería Gruppo Italia, Guaynabo, PR  
*Día Internacional del Ceramista*, Virtual exhibition in DEBA'S Art Series Facebook Page, PR.
- 2020 *Flota Cerámica 4ta Edición*, Plazoleta Juan Morel Campos del Centro de Bellas Artes, Santurce, PR  
*Mascarilla...Mi única protección*, Virtual exhibition in Facebook Page, Bayamón, PR
- 2019 *Barro Soy*, Edificio Macaón Urb. Industrial Mario Juliá, Guaynabo, PR  
*Flota Cerámica*, Plazoleta Juan Morel Campos del Centro de Bellas Artes, Santurce, PR
- 2018 *Oller en el Oller*, Museo Francisco Oller, Bayamón, PR  
*Plural +*, De Arte @ Plaza del Caribe / Galería Trinitaria, Ponce, PR
- 2017 *La Silla Nuestra de Cada Día*, Espacio Emergente, Bayamón, PR

## COLLECTIONS

Private Collections: Chicago, IL; Fort Worth, TX; Guaynabo, PR; Ponce, PR; San Juan, PR.

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2023 CERF+ Get Ready Grant  
2022 Cristina Córdova and Penland School of Craft Internship, NC, 6/22

## MEMBERSHIPS

2023 – present International Academy of Ceramics AIC – IAC

## LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

- 2019 *Trazos de la Memoria*, Art and Ceramic Workshop for Alzheimer patients and their caregivers, Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico, Santurce, PR  
*Plátanos al relieve*, Lecture and Workshop inspired in the piece “¿Plátanos?”, Museo Francisco Oller, Bayamón, PR

## MEDIA

- 2024 “Manifestaciones del Barro en la Liga de Arte”, El Adoquín Digital Newspaper, El Adoquin Times.com, February 14, 2024.  
2021 “Hablemos de la Subasta 2”, Liga de Arte de San Juan – Facebook and ExploreArt YouTube Page, November, 23, 2021.

- 2020 “Conoce a la artista de la semana – Lulu Peña”, Museo de Arte de Bayamón – YouTube, October 3, 2020.
- 2018 “Bayamón retoma el arte”, by James Gil de Lamadrid, Puerto Rico Art News – Blog, October 2018.  
Exhibición “Oller en el Oller”, Museo de Arte Francisco Oller - Facebook, October 2018.  
Taller “Plátanos al relieve”, Museo de Arte Francisco Oller – Facebook, January 19, 2019
- 2017 “La silla nuestra de cada día”, by Melissa M. Cruz Ríos, El Vocero.com, September 6, 2017.