

Nereida Garcia Ferraz Memory

My most recent work as a Visual Artist is about connections between history and private lives and the investigating through the use of simple materials ideas about building and rebuilding departing from lines and shapes of repetition, by the use of card board and paper as materials for drawing and to build forms that reminds viewers buildings and cities seen from multiple points of perspective.



Since I first came to Miami I was always attracted to the design of the Marine Stadium It reminded me of a Stadium in Havana that was right across the street on the Malecon. Both buildings share in their design and purpose and because their geographical location near the water, It made me feel how close we live to Havana, Cuba my city of birth.

When I went to the Marine Stadium for the first time, I thought it was amazing that beautiful building was left without use. I was surprised to find it in still good shape; it was actually in much better shape than I thought, But I also felt angry to see that a building like this, so important and beautiful, was abandoned. It spoke loud and clear that one of the best design building from the second half of the 1950's was been left in disrepair and ignored.

When Rosa Lowinger (curator of Concrete Paradise: The Miami Marine Stadium exhibit at the Coral Gables Museum) came to me and said that there was a group trying to save and restore the Stadium, I thought this was perfect. We have all of this good stuff and we should appreciate what is there. So I had an instant connection—and a necessity for doing something.

When I went into the Stadium, I thought “What happened to all of these pieces of the Stadium?”. It will be a labor of love to bring this place back to what it should be. It is also a necessity, to make this place again for future generations to enjoy.

The Sculptures.

The positioning of the original wood seats, right in front of the water, establishes a relationship between the water and the Stadium. That wood from them has been sitting there in front of the elements for decades. It was easy to think about the wood, exposed to the water and the salt, and the natural elements with their color that also contains the blue of the water and sky, reflecting for many years the light and brightness of the Bay.

I saw all the history that in the wood. The seats connected as they were to the Stadium, were an essential medium to start building my artwork.

I used the seats as the basis for new pieces. I painted some of them, inspired by modern the urban landscapes, and by the zig zag shape of the Stadium itself.

So my love for this building translated into sculpture. I could say that these are my first sculptures made of wood pieces; I had always mostly worked in two dimensions, first, the pieces were made as wall pieces but they got bigger and double sided they became more totem like. I got interested in how the previous life of the wood was infusing a new form to expand and ensemble. I imagined fish and building, the city profile and shape of the building all together becoming sculptures.

The finished sculptures were part of the exhibit at the Marine Stadium Exhibit at Coral Gables Museum and they will in a perfect beautiful way stay connected to the Marine Stadium for many lives on.



