

Summer 2013

TATIANA GARMENDIA

When I finished *The Veils of Ignorance* installation, I'd hoped to begin work on *Murmurations*—an ambitious multi-media project expanding filmmaking, sound installation, dance, and sculpture. *Murmurations* would have given the survivors from *The Veils* an opportunity to celebrate their resiliency through movement and sound. When funding for this proposal fell through, I decided to commit the dancing images in my mind to watercolor paper. I began ***The Book of Hours***.



Death and the Maiden IV is from my new series, *The Book of Hours*, and uses a variety of materials with watercolor on Arches paper.

The Book of Hours

The Book of Hours

appropriates the devotional language of illuminated manuscripts for a secular critique of violence. At the heart of this series is the ritualized act of counting. Counting not prayer beads in a rosary, but female victims in specific townships during set time periods.

My work is driven by existential questions that probe history and culture. It wrestles with the conflicting moral intuitions and intractable violence that marks our age. These questions are expressed by the human figure.

I think of the body as the agent, the measure, and the sum of physical and cultural substance. I think this because my own body acts and is acted upon. It senses, remembers, and recounts, fashioning a report on lived experiences, committing memory to art.

I work in clusters of inquiry circling my subject from many different directions, exploring aspects of the initial physical memory or expression through an array of studio actions.



The Assumption

14" x 11"

Of the 335,131 women in DC, 153 will experience a rape or attempted rape every day. Each victim is counted by a star.



The Rapture

14" x 11"

Every 9 seconds a woman in the US is assaulted or battered. Hatches in the grass represent the number of women beaten up in the last ten minutes.



The Dance of Sheba III

14" x 11"

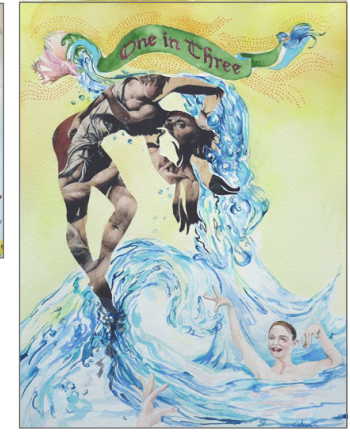
Indian Government statistics show husbands and in-laws killed nearly 7,000 women in 2001 over inadequate dowries. Each dot counts a young bride killed for money.



Death and The Maiden

11" x 14"

More than 200 million girls are missing from various Asian populations due to femicide and sex selective abortions. In a 2011 census of India's population under age of seven, for every 1,000 boys there are only 914 girls. Here 86 flowers count the missing girls per thousand.



The Baptism (Wash that Man Out of Your Hair)

14" x 11"

One in three women will be in an abusive relationship during her lifetime. In 2011, that meant that 334,573 women residing in King County would have experienced abuse. That's an average of 916 women a day. Each is counted by a dot.

Summer news

Artist's Books hold a special place in my heart.

I've also managed to finish three new hand-made artist books.

A voracious reader since earliest childhood, I won a prize from the local public library for reading 25 books in one month! By the third grade, I was filling a sketchbook with drawings of all the things I'd been reading about. When a teacher saw the drawings in this book she wanted to buy it and was surprised to find out it was my own creation and not for sale.

That's when I was placed in a gifted program.

Every so often I like to start from the very beginning and create a one-of-a-kind book fully illustrated and written by me, like I did when I was a kid.

My Little War Experience is a coptic bound book with seven signatures of 8 pages each. It measures 9" x 6" x 1 1/2". One layer of text is from Edward W. Spangler's Civil War diary. On top of this text I've journaled the thoughts and feelings that prompted me to embark on *The Last Judgment* series. There are 56 portraits of vets I worked with, all created using white and black Sumi ink on the grey Canson paper.

The small ***Palingenesis*** book fits in the hand like a prayer book. Also coptic bound, it measures 6 1/2" x 4" x 1". Here I mixed media and drew blind, covering the pages with portraits that I later finished with traditional parallel hatching. I quoted from the Tibetan Book of The Dead throughout.

Aside from finishing twelve new pieces for the Book of Hours series, summertime has been very fruitful in other ways too.

I am one of seven Latina(o) artists featured in an indie art documentary film directed by Leonel Pena Woolff. The film had us discuss our work and philosophies in our studios and various locations in Seattle. We were even interviewed by former Miss Washington, Michelle Font— the only Latina ever to hold the crown.

We just finished shooting. The director hopes to debut abroad in the International Film Festival circuit.

My work is at the Wing Luke Museum's Under My Skin show through Nov. 17, 2013, and three of my blogs were published in their online forum.

Visions & Environments Latino Art Exhibit is poised to open at the Washington State Convention Center on **Thursday, July 18th** from 5-8pm. A second reception is planned for September 13th. The exhibit runs through the end of October. I'm very excited to be showing next to one of my very favorite painters of all time, Mr. Alfredo Arreguin!



The much larger ***Palingenesis 2*** accordion book is two-sided and bound so that when you close side one you open side two. The term palingenesis has multiple meanings— the idea of rebirth (as in baptism), of reincarnation, but also of the continuation of will, and the biological recapitulation of all species during embryonic development. As the notion itself reflects endless cycles, so does the book. I quote a poem by Stanley Kunitz throughout, in English and Arabic.