ALMINE RECH

José Lerma
Relator con Amargura

On view from August 17, 2024 | Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico (MAPR), San Juan, Puerto Rico

Internationally acclaimed Puerto Rican artist José Lerma presents ‘Relator con Amargura’, his first panoramic exhibition on the island.

The Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico (MAPR), is pleased to announce the opening of the panoramic exhibition 'Relator con Amargura', by Puerto Rican artist José Lerma. The show, which consists of more than 60 works of various formats, techniques and stylistic stages, is presented at the Helen Ann French Gallery and the Bertita and Guillermo L. Martínez Gallery.

"This exhibition shows for the first time the complexity of an exceptional Puerto Rican artist who, following the legacy of previous generations of artists, opted for painting at a time when the international art circuit - where José Lerma moves to the full - was turning its gaze to other media that were less complex and less immediate to execute. He has thus demonstrated how tradition can be united with contemporary research", said María C. Gaztambide, executive director of MAPR.

For his part, Juan Carlos López Quintero, curator of the MAPR, mentioned that "despite the fact that the work seems disparate at first sight - because here they broke with chronology and the works speak to each other - 'Relator con Amargura' is a pictorial installation where nuances and colour palettes are respected, although it is a resoundingly contemporary exhibition. That's something that has never happened to me before". On the process of working with Lerma, he added: "it has been very beautiful, a constant dialogue, intense, even emotional, but very respectful. I have been able to express my ideas, listen to his and produce together. I have learned a lot from him in all this time"

'Relator con Amargura' is part of the series 'Regresos /Homeward Bound', a project initiated by MAPR in 2023, with the aim of inviting contemporary Puerto Rican artists living abroad who have exhibited their work internationally but are little known on the island.