Gaby Hernandez

Artist Bio

Gaby Hernández is a social design researcher, educator, and mixed media artist, born and raised in Costa Rica. She holds degrees in social communication, Latin American studies, and an MFA in Graphic Design from the University of Florida. As Endowed Associate Professor of Graphic Design at the University of Arkansas School of Art, Gaby implements learning experiences for her students to discover and nurture their unique visual languages and aesthetics by unearthing the intersectional aspects that define their identities. Her pedagogy emphasizes social responsibility, life-centered design, and community-based experiences. In 2022, she established the Story & Material Initiative—a multilingual research and practice program that facilitates opportunities for students, the university, and NW Arkansas' communities to experience and interact with design and art as vehicles of storytelling, including workshops, exhibitions, and artist lectures. Her creative and scholarly work has been exhibited and disseminated extensively since 2014, in national and international venues, festivals, conferences, and online.



Bust, 7.5 x 9 inches, Mixed media collage, $350.

Artist Statement

As an immigrant woman of color from Costa Rica, Gaby Hernández draws upon her Latina heritage, childhood, and memory as primary sources of inspiration. Her artistic style, materials, and techniques evoke textures, symbols, shapes, and other visual elements that mirror her personal experiences and evoke memories—a means of (re)collecting and reimagining visual narratives. Primarily on paper, she (re)unites textures, found objects, handmade materials, and hand-drawn elements into compositions that articulate her cosmovision within a predominantly white context. At the same time, a profound interest in documenting and honoring the creative process as a form of meta-storytelling drives her use of photography and photomontage to capture both intentional and accidental moments that define creativity. Collage, poster design, paper-making, and book arts constitute her primary mediums, enabling the integration of her theoretical and technical knowledge in graphic design into her artwork through active use of text and typography, form, layering, digital photo editing, and printing techniques.