

Chavis Mármol

Apan, Hidalgo, 1982

Chavis Mármol's art practice is grounded in contradiction as his works explore indigenous identity in contemporary society, the irony of materiality, late-stage capitalism, and the slapstick intervention of concept and form. With his vast knowledge of tools and materials, Mármol produces sculptures, as well as, site-specific installations and performance sculptures seeped in political satire and social criticism fabricated, deconstructed, and enacted with the art of play at the core.

In his artistic research, Mármol assembles, translates and transplants diverse iconic figures from popular culture, art history, and our collective imagination. His practice is generally charged with humor and criticism, which allows him to comment and provoke within the specific context that he operates from, Mexico City, on personal, social and political planes. Mármol works from a wide range of sculptural techniques and materials including stone, wood, metal, clay, resin, textiles, organic waste, etc.

These exercises, in close dialogue with the context in which they are inserted, propose a vision that is both acidic and vindicating of a great variety of topics related to Mexico's "third world" condition as well as Mármol's own condition as a provincial artist seeking to insert himself in the capitol's context. Thus, with an aesthetic often close to kitch-tropical, Mármol exhorts us to reflect on the aesthetic and cultural stereotypes in which Latin America and particularly Mexico are characterized; on the aesthetic opacity also typical of the Latin American context; on the aspirational condition; on evolutionist stories; on "good taste"; on the implicit valuation of different materials; and on different historical and current events.

Chavis Mármol studied Visual Arts at the Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo between 2004 and 2009. In 2010 he moved to Mexico City to pursue a Master's Degree in Visual Arts specializing in Urban Art at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), from which he graduated in 2012. He has exhibited individually and collectively in Mexico, Spain, United States, Chile, Colombia and The Netherlands. He has participated in the artist residencies at Casa Wabi (2019) and Cobertizo (2023). He taught at the Universidad Autónoma de México between 2017 and 2021. He won the Salón Acme Award in 2019 and the Gorrita Azul Award in the category Promising Artist of the Year 2024. In 2016 he founded the art and design production workshop Todo Woooow, which he directs to date. He is currently part of the National System of Creators of the National Fund for Culture and the Arts (FONCA).

Chavis Mármol lives and works in Mexico City.