



CRISTINA CÓRDOVA

ON EVA & MATERIAL EXPERIMENTATION

I have been sculpting my daughter since she was 9. This 15 year old version of Eva is unglazed and finished with burnished earth pigments from the island of Puerto Rico mixed with casein, lime, and oxides. They came specifically from two areas, one in Fajardo near the coast, where the rainforest is, and one from Orocovis in the mountainous center. Written on her back are the words “de monte y mar” (“from mountain and sea”) in gold, a phrase from the song Verde luz by El Topo (Antonio Cabal Vale), which became a symbol of national Puerto Rican pride and an anti-colonialist anthem.

In my practice, the image of Eva is the embodiment of change and possibility. It speaks to the inevitability of transience and the inherited threads of code that perpetuate both genes and identity. This piece seeks to perform both as a symbol and a relic by holding in its materiality a part of the Island that has thematically bound this whole series through the years, exploring the riches and vulnerabilities of this small Caribbean nation that is my home.

Left:

*EVA XV, 2022
earthenware, earthen pigments from Puerto Rico, casein, lime, oxides, 60 x 18 x 22”.
Photo by Loam Marketing, 2023*

Top Portrait by Chad Weeden, 2020

