



Amidst the future and present there is a memory table

Date

2013

Primary Maker

Firelei Báez

Medium

Pigmented abaca, cotton, and linen on abaca base sheet with radiograph opaque ink

Description

Firelei Báez made *Amidst the future and present there is a memory table* at the innovative New York papermaking studio Dieu Donne (see also cat. no. 129). There, she created a series of works that reference the human body, partly inspired by the skin-like qualities of paper itself—a medium she refers to as a “surrogate self.” Her materials informed her iconography, as what she originally intended as landscapes evolved into silhouettes of bodies. Some of the silhouettes reference scrollwork, the elaborate ornamentation that appears in the margins of Persian miniatures and medieval European manuscripts. Born in the Dominican Republic and now based in Miami, Báez incorporates Caribbean folklore into her work and explores the ways in which women of color throughout history have subverted hierarchy and patriarchy in creative ways. She frequently sources images from YouTube videos, such as those showing women twerking (dancing provocatively in a low, bouncing squat) or wilding (participating in bare-knuckled fistfights); she is drawn to these subjects as indicators of antinormative female behavior. The figures that appear in *Amidst the future and present there is a memory table* have been abstracted through the process of marbling, a traditional papermaking technique embraced by the artist for its ability to incorporate bodily gestures into the form of the work. (SOURCE: Alcauskas, INNOVATIVE APPROACHES, HONORED TRADITIONS, 2017) Created at the Dieu Donne Papermill in New York City.

Dimensions

Sheet: 39 3/4 x 60 3/8 in. (101 x 153.4 cm) Frame: 45 1/8 x 65 5/8 x 2 7/8 in. (114.6 x 166.7 x 7.3 cm)