Yesenia Posada

Alien Nations 2020

ART 321

Dr. Dominguez

Alien Nations 2020 is an exhibit currently on display at the Coral Gables Museum, featuring several artists, each one describing a different form of alienation. The exhibition targets the feeling of isolation and distress currently being experienced by society, especially during this time due to Covid-19 and distancing restrictions. It also had some political undertones, and several of the artists expressed concerns about climate change.

I was not sure what to expect walking into the exhibition hall, as I had purposely waited to visit the museum before reading the catalogue. In the hallway entering the room was a piece depicting elaborate women’s shoes and what appeared to be a face covering. It all started to come together for me. As a woman, I can certainly understand how women being forced or coerced to dress a certain way can make us feel as an object and subsequently alienated.

Once in the main hall, I was pleasantly surprised to find myself drawn into this exhibit, finding each piece to be unique and quite interesting. So much so, that is it difficult to pick just one artist to highlight. The pieces were all thought provoking, especially during this time of political turmoil and isolation. I loved that these artists were sending messages through their work, alerting us on the climate crisis, racial injustices and gender inequality. These pieces stirred up some feelings in me, that is for sure.

Towards the end of the hall there was once piece that I felt drawn to, it was Racked Leaves, by Patrick Jacobs, the last piece of the exhibition. It was absolutely beautiful, unique and the word that comes to mind is magical. This piece consists of a scenery which appears to be an enchanted forest. The reflection of light inside the box makes it seem as though you are looking out a window into a beautiful scenery. I loved ending the show on a high note.