

Puzzles (Rompecabezas)

In this series, assembling a puzzle signifies an attempt to reflect on the factor of change in the transformation of identity within the context of immigration. The collage is the means used to symbolize the process. Cutting, gluing and the reassembly of paper and wood are metaphors that reassemble this kind of life. The cut of ties, with a country, its customs, its places and the necessity to reassemble those pieces anew in another country. This is a life made up of bits of patchwork of overlapping roles, of broken images. What is sought is the sense of a new life emerging made up from bits from the past, altered and reformed.

Puzzles are made up from pieces that can be looked at as a block or as different individual pieces, depending on how I choose to put the pieces together, which in turn is then completed by the viewer. It is all open to the different interpretations for the viewers. The key is in the rebuilding. In turn, these are organized in multiple ways, allowing mutation of the images according to successive reconfigurations and building perimeters and shapes on the wall. They carry with them the potential for continuous change and generate tension in the images which can be put together one way or another. Consequently, the generated images are random and non hierarchical.

The series contemplates the search for the illusive and fragmented body image which has been analysed in previous series. Forms are anthropomorphic and are springboards for discussion. They generate tension in regard to the search for meaning. They are abstract but are also “something”.

Paper and wood are the materials used in the work and they act as the main protagonists. The process is straightforward and defining. The brush is replaced with scissors and cuts the line. The material and process enable the pleasure of the game, reassembly and surprise. The way of working is choppy, incomplete at times, and it adapts itself to new circumstance.

Sofia Donovan

2004