

Ana Maria Hernandez

Curator, educator, and cultural manager.



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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Independent curator, educator, and cultural manager based in Aruba and The Netherlands. My work focuses on the development of and engagement with audiences for visual arts through the exploration of tools, encounter formats, and collaborations. I'm also interested in the questions around sustainable infrastructure for local artists in Aruba. For my projects, I bring together my academic background in art history with my creative thinking and strategic skills to develop inclusive and context-based exchanges.

SKILLS SUMMARY

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| Project Management | Problem Solving Skills | Strong Communication Skills | Development Communication Materials | Research Oriented | Writing |
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EXPERIENCE

CURATORIAL PROGRAM

2021

CAS DI CULTURA ARUBA
ARUBA

Sept 2020- July 2022
CURATOR

- Selection of local artists that showcased the diversity in themes and practice to an audience generally unfamiliar with Contemporary art practices.
- Professionalization of Cas di Cultura team in regards to presentation and engagement with contemporary visual arts.
- Developed the concept for the exhibitions together with the participating artists, within a modest budget and tight timeline.
- Implementation of different art mediation models.
- Development of branding for the program together with the designer.
- Liaison between the institution and the artists.
- Coordinate payments, and manage the budget and schedule.

In 2020 I developed the proposal for a curatorial program for Cas di Cultura, the island's cultural center. The proposal for the program followed two urgencies on the island regarding the production and reception of (local) visual arts. Firstly, it addresses the lack of platforms for local artists to experiment, present their work, and engage with audiences. Secondly, it encourages a dialogue with the local audience where the depth, agency, and multifaceted nature of visual arts are presented.

The program, the first of its kind in Aruba, consisted of 5 exhibitions featuring emerging and mid-career local visual artists. The exhibitions were dialogues with the local community, questioning their understanding of the 'Aruban culture,' and the role of art within the community. The exhibition series aims to create a space for new art audiences and encourages the exploration of the aesthetic experience and arts' ability to facilitate dialogue.

The exhibitions were realized with the support of Prins Bernard Cultuur Fonds Caribbean and Mondriaan Fonds.

FOUNDER AND CHAIR
Stichting Plataforma Aruba
ARUBA
Oct 2018- present

- Strategy development and implementation for the organization
- In charge of all communication material for the projects and organization
- Development and execution of art-education programs
- Liaison for local artists, international and local organizations
- In charge of online (website and social media) presence of the organization
- PR and Marketing for the foundation

Arte Contemporaneo den Biblioteca

Arte Contemporaneo den Biblioteca (contemporary art in the library) is an ongoing project at the Biblioteca Nacional Aruba. The project consists of a book collection on visual arts and a public program. The books were donated by organizations such as Manifesta Biennial (The Netherlands), De Appel Arts Center (The Netherlands), Fundacion Eterno (Aruba), and Fundacion Gast (Aruba). The collection has been made available to the community through the National Library and can be accessed with the regular library card. The Public Program 2019 consisted of a lecture, pop-up exhibition, live performance, and an artist talk.

The goal of the project was to offer tools that encourage and contribute to engagement with contemporary visual arts, creating new points of encounter and a platform for further discussion and reflection. The project has been on pause since 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Pilot Program at the Ortopedagogic Center Aruba (June - December 2019)

The Pilot Program at OC was an art education project where we developed an artistic module for a group of teenage girls (ages 13 - 18) residents of the Ortopedagogic Center of Aruba (OC). The module was developed in collaboration with the team from the Center, Renata Cervetto (curator and professional in the field of Arts & Education), Osaira Muyale (local visual artist), and Glenda Heyliger (local visual artist). At the end of the module, the group participated in workshops by local artists and an online exhibition on the Plataforma Aruba website.

The project aimed to introduce the girls to tools for a better understanding of their background and circumstances through encounters with visual art.

Plataforma Spotlight

Plataforma Spotlight is an independent virtual space where we invite local visual artists to participate in a didactic online exhibition. Each exhibition showcases 4-5 works, which are accompanied by educational texts in both Papiamentu and English. Our first online exhibition hosted Venezuelan artist Samuel Sarmiento. Sarmiento's artistic practice uses oral traditions, moral narratives, and symbols to reveal the underlying connections between different social and cultural contexts.

The program aims to promote local visual arts, offer context and art mediation, and help develop a new audience for contemporary art on the island. The program will resume in 2022.

ODA PA E PISCADO - Ode to the Fisherman

The exhibition is an artistic intervention bringing visibility to our island's fishing tradition through the allegory of 'the Aruban fisherman.' Local artist Samuel Sarmiento has been invited to create works that explore the different ways the sea and the fisherman interact with each other. The project aims to not only create a space for the community to (re)discover and (re)connect with the history of the city and its community. It also plants seeds of awareness on the audience's own stories and ties to the sea, encouraging a healthy sense of identity. The project aims to contribute this way to the preservation of our Immaterial Cultural Heritage (ICH). It also promotes an active relationship with our culture by bringing visibility to the local fishing community and showing the value of this long tradition for the cultural, social, and economic development of Aruba.

This exhibition is a commission by Stichting Rancho, a non-profit organization that focuses on the preservation of the intangible cultural heritage of the city of Oranjestad, and is part of a four-year program in anticipation of Oranjestad's (capital of Aruba) bicentenary in 2024.

**OFFICE MANAGER AND
GOVERNANCE ASSISTANT**
**Manifesta Biennial
AMSTERDAM**
Aug 2015 - Sep 2018

- Coordinator of Manifesta's participation in Amsterdam Art Weekend from (2016 - 2018)
- Managing editor of publication: 'Manifesta 11 Cabaret der - Zunfthaus Voltaire' in collaboration with Visual artist Christian Jankowski (2018)
- Oversaw the Supervisory Board of Manifesta Foundation (2015 - 2018)
- Coordination of the In-house exhibition series at Headquarters in Amsterdam (2016 - 2018)
- In charge of interns at the Amsterdam facilities (2015 - 2018)

EDUCATION

**MASTER OF ARTS,
CONTEMPORARY ART**

University of Amsterdam, 2016

**BACHELOR OF ARTS,
ART HISTORY**

Radboud University Nijmegen, 2014

**COLEGIO ARUBANO,
VWO**

Oranjestad, 2008

LANGUAGES

**English (fluent), Dutch (fluent), Spanish (native),
Papiamentu (native).**