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# ARTIST INTERVIEW: CHARY HILU



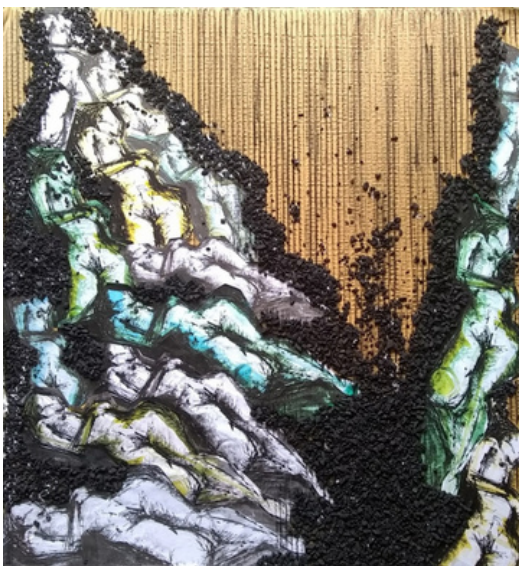
**Chary Hilu** is an artist and teacher of visual arts from Argentina. A graduate of the National School of Fine Arts Prilidiano Pueyrredón (Argentina), she studied drawing and sculpture with the sculptor Juan Maffi.

Among her achievements, she has won prizes for sketching in competitions organized by the Luis Perloti Museum, the San Isidro Youth Salon, and the SAAP Adrogué Salon.

Chary participated in exhibitions at the Centro Cultural Borges, the Argentine Society of Plastic Artists in Argentina and various mosaic exhibitions in Italy. In 2021 she participated in virtual exhibitions at the University of Ibagué (Colombia) and the Binational ARTwalk (Arizona).

## **Tell us a bit about yourself...**

I was born and live in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Since I was a child, I have loved to draw. The subject I enjoyed the most was art in school, and my works were chosen to participate in art exhibitions. When I was 18 years old, I decided to study fine arts at university. Into the art is where I found my place.



## **What themes or ideas do you pursue in your work?**

Usually, my works express feelings, experiences, and memories, what I see around me and the world, and what touches me emotionally. I try to create works that embody expressions, feelings, and ideas in their context and cultural and social load, becoming a symbolic object.

At the center of my artistic search is the human being with the crises and dilemmas of existence.

Pit, 2021, 75 x 80 cm



Siege, 2021, 65 x 35 cm

**Your practice ranges from collages to drawings and sculptures. Can you tell us about your process?**

At the university, I specialized in sculpture and drawing. Sculpture has always accompanied me, as well as drawing. I drew a lot with live models. The idea to make collages was born during the pandemic when I had to work with what I had at hand....so, any cardboard that came to my house when buying something, or threads, buttons, garbage bags, old papers that I had kept in the drawers, they were transformed into a material to design. I began to mix and create with the collage technique that I had not felt the need to do in earlier times.

Sculpture continues to attract me, and I do not leave it aside. And the drawing of the human figure is almost always present in my works. Sometimes when I experiment with collages, many begin to get volume, so I do not exclude returning to sculpture.



Confined Souls, 2021, collage, 35 x 35 cm



Threatening Presence IV, 2021, collage, 50 x 70 cm



Story, 2022, collage, 50 x 70 cm



Tensions, 2021, collage, 50 x 70 cm

**Do you actively search for inspiration or let inspiration find you?**

I let it find me, the subjects or images are presented to me, and one idea brings the other.

**How did your practice evolve or unfold over the years?**

My artwork is a constant search. I am always interested in doing new things. After graduating from university, I spent many years teaching art in schools with children. This experience nourished me, gave me a lot of freedom, and I learned a lot from children. They are fresh, spontaneous, and dare to experiment with their art, and thinking about creative and innovative proposals gave me a lot of freedom. I had a very academic education, which was fundamental. At first, I clung very much to this training, but then I found my own image over time.

**What does a typical day in the studio look like?**

I need to have all kinds of materials on hand for testing. I usually work on several artworks at the same time. This allows me to take time to elaborate, observe, and modify each piece. I take photos of the process.



Cycle I, 2022, collage, 50 x 70 cm



Cycle II, 2022, collage, 50 x 70 cm



Cob(H)JA , 2021



Inside-outside, 2021



Without Space, collage, 50 x 70 cm

**Would you say other artists or art genres have influenced your practice? If yes, how?**

I admire many artists (Miguel Angel, Henry Moore, Barlach, Kate Kolwiz, Picasso, Rodin, Van Gogh, and others) for their mastery of technique combined with their expressiveness in everything they do...and also for their ability to experiment and break away from the conventions of their time.

Of course, my teacher Juan Maffi. With him, I learned the techniques of drawing and sculpture. I greatly admire an Argentine artist, Antonio Berni (1905-1981). He was an innovator in his phase of work with his collages. He included all kinds of materials in his expressive search. He even transformed materials he collected from the garbage into art.

**Tell us a bit about the future (any plans, upcoming projects, news).**

Soon I will move my studio to a larger building. This will give me more freedom to create somewhat larger works and possibly venture into sculpture again.

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Website: <http://www.artebaires.com.ar/hilu> Instagram: @charyhilu