

Artist Spotlight

Dona Altemus

Miami native Dona Altemus fosters a richly interdisciplinary practice, creating works that span collage, sculpture, photography, and spatial interventions. Her art serves as a bridge between material and geometry, using these elements as allegories to explore ecological phenomena and the ethnographic and folkloric narratives embedded within our environments.

At the heart of her practice lies a deep engagement with space—not just as a physical construct but as a contemplative concept. Through her ephemeral structures, Altemus transforms ordinary surroundings into immersive experiences that alter perceptions, probe the evolving landscape, and illuminate its layered historical narratives. Her work asks viewers to pause and consider deeper connections tied to time, space, and the intricate relationships within an interconnected universe.

Altemus's art emphasizes the fragile balance between inhabitants and their environments, advocating for awareness of these delicate interdependencies. By inviting audiences to slow down and engage with her pieces, she fosters a reflective experience that uncovers intrinsic links between the natural world and human existence.

Her achievements reflect her dedication and impact. In 2024 and 2022, she received the Miami Individual Artists Stipend from the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, recognizing her contributions to the local arts community. Altemus also participated in the Keyholder Residency at IS Projects in 2021, further developing her practice in a collaborative setting.

Her work has been included in notable group exhibitions, such as Draw: Point to Point at the Frost Museum of Art in 2023 and the AIM Biennial in 2020, among others. Altemus holds an MFA from the University of Delaware, where she also received the Delaware Public Humanities Institute Fellowship in 2017, deepening her engagement with critical conversations about art and society.

Through her thoughtful practice, Dona Altemus continues to challenge conventional perceptions and offer fresh perspectives on the ever-evolving relationship between people, place, and the stories that bind them.



Dona Altemus
Images courtesy of the artist



Out of Space



Underwater Archaeologist



Hole in the Heart