

Fleeting Under Light

Diana Guerra

Seaton Street Press is pleased to present *Fleeting Under Light*, an artist book by Diana Guerra. Exploring the shifting nature of memory, home and belonging, Guerra's images speak both to and from the experience of the Latine diaspora.

Guerra's imagery takes the form of anthotypes, an alternative photographic process in which photosensitive material is derived from plants and exposed with sunlight. Using Peruvian purple corn, beet, and red cabbage, Guerra combines personal archives with new photographs made collaboratively with family in La Arena, Peru and New York City. The resulting images evoke the ancestral places of origin that immigrants carry within them.

Purple corn, a plant native to the South American Andes, has also been cultivated in regions such as Yucatán (Mexico) and by the Hopi and Navajo indigenous tribes in the United States. In pre-Hispanic Peruvian history, purple corn held sacred significance, referred to as 'oro' (gold) in Spanish or 'sara'/'kulli sara' in Quechua. The use of this organic dye and its exposure under the sun follows a traditional practice in the Americas.

Through the process of sun exposure and the degrading effects environmental forces have on the self-made photographic materials, these works bear traces of memory, whilst also drawing attention to the systematic erasure of indigenous communities of color in the United States. In *Fleeting Under Light*, Guerra shows how embracing one's cultural heritage asserts one's rightful place in shaping American identity.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Diana Guerra is a Peruvian American lens-based artist and educator currently based in New York. Her work revolves around themes of memory, belonging, and identity (re)construction from the perspective of a woman of color within the Latine diaspora in New York City. Guerra holds an MFA in Digital and Interdisciplinary Art Practice from the City College of New York and a bachelor's degree in Sociology from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru. Guerra's early training in photography was at Parsons School of Design as part of the MFA Photography program. Guerra is a 2024 AIM Bronx Museum Fellow and 2022 En Foco Photography Fellow. Her work has been featured at the Museum of the City of New York, Photoville, Mana Contemporary, and the School of Visual Arts, among others. She is currently an Adjunct Professor at The City College of New York.



▼ PUBLICATION NOTES

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▼ COLOPHON

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