

CV and Artist Statement:

Samuel Sarmiento is a visual artist based in **Aruba**. His artistic practice explores the narrative and hermeneutic capacity of contemporary drawing and its connection with Caribbean oral traditions and learning mechanisms based on orality. He is also interested in ceramics as a tool for constructing allegorical objects and semiotic devices, creating images related to historical processes, extractivism, identity, reproducibility, migration and mimesis. Currently, he uses ceramics as an expressive medium to develop allegories and scenarios related to the origins and expansion of food production. Through art, he reinterprets historical collisions and events such as nomadism, mobility and the search for raw materials from Eden to the present day. He is particularly fascinated by the animistic and ritualistic aspects of making everyday objects, using stories and symbols from Caribbean oral traditions as a basis.

In both his drawings and ceramics, he incorporates permeable references, metaphors, and tropes tied to archetypes such as the effort to obtain food ("Proteins and Fierce People"), the roads of servitude ("Individualism and Collectivism in the Age of Extraction"), and social classifications ("Cannibals, Kings, and Pristine States").



Samuel Sarmiento talking about his practice during Ceramic Brussels 2025 – Tour & Taxis (Brussels, Belgium)

Since 2019, Samuel has focused on the expressive and narrative possibilities of ceramics, a medium capable of conveying contemporary discourses through diverse techniques while maintaining a heritage often associated with crafts. This connection evokes a reconnection with the soil in an era dominated by digital media. Sarmiento has participated in prestigious artist residencies, including **EKWC - European Ceramic Workcentre (Oisterwijk, NL)**, **Van Gogh AIR Foundation (Zundert, NL)**, **The Bakehouse Art Complex Residency Program (Miami, USA)**, **Archie Bray Foundation (Montana, USA)**, **Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts Residency Program (Maine, USA)**, **Red Lodge Clay Center Residency Program (Montana, USA)**, **CheLA (Buenos Aires, Argentina)** and the **BijlmerAIR artist residency program** organized by **CBK Zuidoost (Amsterdam, NL)**, with the support of Bradwolff Projects and the Stedelijk Museum.

In 2022, Samuel had the opportunity to undertake a creative period at **Yaddo Residency (Saratoga Springs, NY, USA)**, a long-standing space that has hosted renowned artists such as Clyfford Still, Truman Capote, Philip Guston, Helen Frankenthaler, and David Foster Wallace, among others. His work has been presented in numerous group exhibitions, including **30 jaar Bijlmervelegramp** at the **Amsterdam Museum (Amsterdam, NL)**, **A World of Many Words** at **CBK Zuidoost (Amsterdam, NL)**, **Mykonos Biennale (Mykonos, Greece)**, **Resisting: Form and Surface** at **Red Lodge Clay Center (Montana, USA)**, **ARCO Lisboa (Lisbon, Portugal)**, **ZONAMACO (Mexico City, Mexico)**, **ArPa (Sao Paulo, Brazil)** **We Are Looking to Shake** at **Uniate Foundation (Willemstad, Curaçao)**, **Myth Makers** at **Hatch Gallery Paris (Milano, Italy)**, **Pioneers in Keramiek** at **Prinsenhof Museum (Delft, NL)**, **UNFAIR24 (Amsterdam, NL)**, **ArtBasel Miami 2024 (Miami, USA)**, **Ceramic Brussels 2025 (Brussels, Belgium)**, **Art on Paper 2025 (Amsterdam, NL)**, **Art Rotterdam (Rotterdam, NL)**, **Tropicalities – Vortic Art** curated by **Maria Wills**, **Earth Tales** at **Kunstinitiatief VHDG (Leeuwarden, NL)** **Essay on earth** at **Simoes de Assis**

Gallery (Sao Paulo, Brazil) and *Extractivism and Its Discontents*, organized by the MasArteMasAccion Collective within the framework of the exhibition from Documenta 15 (Kassel, Germany), among others. For 2025, Samuel Sarmiento had a solo exhibition at **the Claustro de San Agustín in Bogotá, Colombia**. This historic event marks the first time an artist living and working in Aruba will hold a solo exhibition at this historic site, reinforcing the cultural exchange between Aruba, Colombia, and the Netherlands.

The Claustro de San Agustín, a National Monument (next to the presidential residence), is administered by the **National University of Colombia** and serves as an important cultural venue. The exhibition was curated by **María Belén Sáez de Ibarra**, a prominent Latin American curator and director of the university's Museum of Art and Department of Cultural Diffusion.

Beyond this solo exhibition, Samuel Sarmiento has also been invited to group exhibitions in June 2025, further expanding his artistic reach:

Portals to Unwritten Time in **Galerie Perrotin Paris** curated by Barbara Newman.

H3H Biennial: "A Deeper Shade of Soul" in (Oosterhout, Netherlands) curated by **Nanda Janssen**.

"Earthly Communities" at **Kunst Meran (Merano, Italy)**, curated by **Lucrezia Cippitelli** and **Simone Frangi**, in collaboration with **Framer Framed**.



Samuel Sarmiento participating in Pioniers in Keramiek 2024 at Museum Prinsenhof (Delft, NL)

Sarmiento's work, which explores history, migration, extractivism, and identity, resonates deeply in the **Dutch Caribbean and Global South** region, addressing transatlantic connections, socio-political tensions, and evolving cultural narratives. In these high-profile exhibitions, he consolidates his role as an essential voice in contemporary Caribbean art.

Samuel Sarmiento has a positive record of securing significant grants and funding for his artistic endeavors, demonstrating consistent support for his projects across various prestigious institutions.

Most notably, in 2025, Sarmiento will receive the **Kunstenaar Basis (Artist Basic)** grant from the **Mondriaan Fonds**, a testament to his established artistic practice. This follows his successful **2023 Artist Project grant** for "**Chants from Overseas**" also from the Mondriaan Fonds, indicating ongoing recognition from this major Dutch art fund. Beyond the Mondriaan Fonds, Sarmiento's work has attracted support from a diverse range of organizations: **2024:** Sarmiento was a recipient of **TENDER: A Caribbean Arts Initiative**, a collaborative effort by **FreshMilk Barbados & Mellon Foundation** aimed at supporting Caribbean arts.

2023: Samuel received a **DOEN Grant** from Stichting DOEN, an Art Project Grant from **Amarte Fonds**, and funding from the **PRINS BERNHARD CULTUURFONDS CARIBISCH GEBIED (PBCCG)**.

2022: His international mobility as an artist was supported by the **Archipel Mobility Fund for Caribbean artists** from the **Institut français**.

2021: Early in this period, Sarmiento was awarded the **CATAPULT - Caribbean Artist grant** by **Kingston Creatives**, highlighting his emergence in the Caribbean art scene.



Van Gogh Huis Drenthe team visiting my studio at AIR Van Gogh Huis (Zundert,NL)

In parallel, Samuel's goal is to explore new materials, including different types of clay, such as stoneware and earthenware, for both high- and low-temperature firing. He is also interested in developing his own glazes and conducting experiments with zinc crystals while gaining a deeper understanding of pyrometric curves to achieve more efficient and sustainable firings. Through this research, Samuel seeks to push the boundaries of ceramic practices by integrating innovative techniques. **Over the next four years, Sarmiento aspires to showcase his work in solo shows in the Netherlands, Aruba, France and the United States, sharing his findings and artistic vision with a global audience.**



Samuel Sarmiento's pieces at Galerie Perrotin Paris, 2025