

WHO IS SAMUEL SARMIENTO

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Samuel Sarmiento is a visual artist based in Aruba (Dutch Caribbean). His practice explores the narrative and hermeneutic capacity of drawing and ceramics through Caribbean oral traditions, myth, history and systems of learning based on orality. He constructs allegorical objects and semiotic devices that address extractivism, identity, reproducibility, migration and mimesis, using clay to reconsider historical collisions, mobility and the search for raw materials from Eden to the present day.

In drawings and ceramic works, Sarmiento brings together stories, symbols and archetypes from Caribbean oral traditions. His work develops permeable references to food, servitude and social classification. Sarmiento also references universal literature, cinema, and media such as theatre and performance through his sculptures, using clay as a form of record and archive capable of surviving the passage of time.



Samuel Sarmiento talking about his practice during Ceramic Brussels 2025 - Tour & Taxis, Brussels, Belgium.

Since 2019, Sarmiento has pursued the expressive and narrative possibilities of ceramics through residencies at EKWC - European Ceramic Workcentre, Van Gogh AIR Foundation, The Bakehouse Art Complex, Archie Bray Foundation, Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts, Red Lodge Clay Center, CheLA and BijlmAIR, as well as a creative period at Yaddo Residency in 2022. These experiences connect his studio practice to international contexts for experimentation, material research and exchange.



Samuel Sarmiento showing his work at Art Basel Miami 2025.

EXHIBITIONS AND RECENT ACTIVITY

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Sarmiento's work has been presented internationally at the Amsterdam Museum, CBK Zuidoost, the Mykonos Biennale, Red Lodge Clay Center, ARCO Lisboa, ZONAMACO, ArPa, Uniarte Foundation, Hatch Gallery, Museum Prinsenhof, UNFAIR, Art Basel Miami, Ceramic Brussels, Art on Paper, Art Rotterdam, Kunstinitiatief VHDG, Simoes de Assis Gallery and the MasArteMasAccion Collective in the context of Documenta 15.

In 2025, he presented two major solo exhibitions that bridged the Americas: Marismas Primordiales at the Claustro de San Agustín in Bogotá, curated by María Belén Sáez de Ibarra, and his U.S. solo debut, Relical Horn, at Andrew Edlin Gallery in New York. That year he also participated in Portals to Unwritten Time at Perrotin in Paris, curated by Barbara Newman; H3H Biennale: A Deeper Shade of Soul in Oosterhout, curated by Nanda Janssen; and Earthly Communities at Kunst Meran, curated by Lucrezia Cippitelli and Simone Frangi with Framer Framed.



Samuel Sarmiento participating in Pioneers in Keramiek 2024 at Museum Prinsenhof, Delft, the Netherlands.

His practice has received sustained support from the Mondriaan Fonds, including the 2025 Kunstenaar Basis grant and the 2023 Artist Project grant for Chants from Overseas, as well as support from TENDER: A Caribbean Arts Initiative, Stichting DOEN, Amarte Fonds and the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds Caribisch Gebied. These recognitions reflect the continued development of a transatlantic practice grounded in material, storytelling and research.

Sarmiento's work is also held in specialized Caribbean-art collections, including the Patricia Phelps de Cisneros Collection (CPPC) Permanent Collection and Colección Tropicalia, among others.



Exhibition Relical Horn, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, 2025.

CURRENT PROJECTS AND SELECTED COVERAGE

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Samuel Sarmiento is currently developing a solo exhibition, provisionally titled Give Me Something to Believe, for March 2027 at Stedelijk Museum Schiedam. Curated by Nanda Janssen, the exhibition is made possible with the support of Stedelijk Museum Schiedam and the Mondriaan Fonds.

Recent specialist editorial coverage of his solo presentations has appeared in Artishock Revista, Arte al Dia, Observer and Ceramics Now. His participation in group exhibitions has also been featured by MoCA/NY and Segno, extending the visibility of his work across ceramic, contemporary-art and institutional platforms.

Sarmiento is a painter and ceramist whose work transforms Caribbean and South American oral traditions into allegorical ceramic objects and drawings. His recent exhibitions in Bogotá, New York, Paris, Merano and Oosterhout establish a practice that connects Latin American and Caribbean narratives with contemporary international discourse.



Samuel Sarmiento participated in Portals to Unwritten Time, Perrotin Gallery, Paris, 2025.