

Flor: *Kiki—A Sky of Changing Lights*

A painting depicts a queer monarch butterfly named Kiki, taking a sip from an unattended Aperol Spritz at a discotheque. The background lights shift colors, refracted on bodies moving. The spritz sits on a confetti glitter table alongside a copy of *Disidentifications* by José Esteban Muñoz. A few seconds later, Kiki becomes a dancing queen.

Who is Kiki, you might ask? Kiki is a queer monarch butterfly that likes to go to the discotheque. Wandering & longing to belong, Kiki finds clues for kinship throughout the urban landscape. Following the scent of something familiar yet unknown—an Aperol Spritz—she stumbles onto a dancefloor where she finally finds the space for moves & gestures of her own... *Kiki la dancing queen...* after a night out at the club Kiki finds comfort on a hammock spun by a friendly spider for her. The texture of these silky threads brings her memories of dreams when she embodied other forms.

In their paintings, Flor allows Kiki to flutter away from whatever preconceptions we might have about monarch butterflies. Flor recalls seeing images of monarchs in protest posters carried by Dreamers & on murals in Pilsen, Chicago, where they live. They wondered if the monarch ever got tired of carrying these narratives of multigenerational migration, of survival, change, & beauty. Flor gives Kiki space to find & embody her multiplicities, a place to rest from imposed societal roles & narratives. Flor opens a window for Kiki who didn't quite fit in with the rest of her monarch group... a queer butterfly who is somehow bad at migrating, struggling, & performing her “monarch” roles. Kiki is a dream space for queer narrative stories about our bodies, environments, & relationships. About our need not only for survival & places to rest but also a space to allow ourselves to manifest endless joy, to conjure the world & relationships we need beyond survival. All done with a fantastical twist because we all need bedtime stories to dream up new possibilities...

Flor likes to give their subjects, materials, & themes they work with equal agency over their language & representation. How does Flor do that? They channel Kiki, a *conceptual personae*. Flor employs rituals to embody her... a spray of perfume, a Kiki playlist playing in the background, a Kiki dance in between brushstrokes... Flor becoming Kiki subverts authorship. From there, the paintings develop their own intuitive language by breaking in & out of symmetry, playing with mirrorings, & mimicking her changing environment. Kiki is always shifting forms, so she likes to be painted in many different ways... exploring ways of seeing, perceiving, & multi-sensing. What is it to see & sense like a queer monarch butterfly, who likes to dance, to befriend other queer beings? Kiki's journey is about queer belonging... what is it like to dream & manifest new potentialities?

Hi, my name is **Flor**. I am a conceptual artist working through painting, performance & poetry. My works are proposals for queer belongings, new modes of expressing & relating to one another. Some themes & subjects in my works are: Flowers as a stand-in for myself (Flor); Kiki, a queer monarch butterfly that loves the discotheque—Kiki is also a framework for collaborations that foster queer migratory experiences; “X” an Epic poem about the letter X, as in Latinx & its other uses as a gesture of erasure, inclusion, voidance, & as a placeholder for a language that is yet to come, interwoven with my migratory experience through languages & spaces.

I have recently exhibited (solo) at Chicago Artists Coalition, ADDS DONNA, BAR4000, Heaven Gallery, & performances at Gallery 400 & the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. I have been featured in reviews & publications such as Artmaze, Sixty Inches From Center, New American Paintings, Chicago Artist Writers, & Monsters & Dust. In 2021 I was selected as a “Breakout Artists 2021: Chicago's Next Generation of Image Makers” by Newcity Art.

Everybody is a gallery in Tucson, AZ that primarily works with emerging and perpetually-emerging artists. Its beginnings in Tucson started as a warehouse project space from 2016-2018, followed by an iteration in Chicago, IL from 2019-2020. Its activity has been featured by Newcity Art, Vulture, Contemporary Art Daily, ART news, Art Viewer, Autre Magazine, Tzvetnik, Arizona Public Media, SFAQ, among others. Everybody is a member of the New Art Dealers Alliance.

1. Kiki tomando un sip de aperol spritz en una reflexión ✂ Kiki taking a sip of aperol spritz in a reflection ✂ 2022, acrylic gouache on muslin, 11 x 19 inches

2. Kiki descubriendo la fluidez de las formas, de los géneros, de los cuerpæs, considerando cuáles tomar con cadencia, alas nuevas de fairy edición, y un género con forma de corazón ;) ✂ Kiki was mesmerized at the fluidity of forms, gender, wings, bodies... a desire to become them... & to tap into their flows with cadence, a pair of fairy wings, a heart shaped gender... a faux leather suit... ✂ 2022, acrylic gouache on muslin, 20 x 26 inches

3. Kiki comiendo Chayote de Aire, descargando las memorias de esa planta tan dulce y la de sus ancestros y fururæs y así es como Kiki comió un secreto que la enseñó a parpadear un wink ;) ✂ Kiki eating a "hairy ball" (milkweed) downloads the plant's memories and her ancestor's, & future's, & just like that taking a bite from a secret, she learned how to wink ;) ✂ 2022, fabric dye on muslin, 18 x 26 inches

4. "...y la luz cambiaba de azul, a verde, a yellow, a rojo... Kiki pensó mientras tomaba un sip de Aperol Spritz... este también es un techo que cambia luces, me siento en casa... como el cielo, como el sol derrumbándose en las hojas y pétalos de bougainvilleas cambiando colores, cada vez que miras arriba cambia colores... es en ese momento que Kiki se dio cuenta de que es esencial para una casa tener por techo un cielo que cambia luces...ah y mira que bonito libro, que comparte los colores de la bebida que me esta dando energías, para movimientos y sueños utópicos." ✂ "...& the light changed from blue, to green, to yellow, to red... Kiki thought as she took a sip of Aperol Spritz... This ceiling of changing lights makes me feel at home... like the sky, like the sun sliding through the leaves & flowers from a bougainvillea tree... Changing colors, every time you look up... It was at that moment when Kiki realized that it is essential for a house to have a roof of changing lights... every time i look up it changes colors with the wind...ahh & look at this book, that shares the colors I am drinking... dreamy." ✂ 2022, acrylic gouache on muslin, 30 x 52 inches

5. Anhelando su forma crisálida, Kiki recoge hojas de hiedra, lágrimas de alegría y columnas de espinas de rosas y así se suspende en la luz de una noche de luna llena. ✂ Longing for her chrysalis form, Kiki gathers ivy leaves, tears of joy, & columns of rose thorns & just like that, suspends herself in the light of a full moon night. ✂ 2022, acrylic gouache on muslin, 20 x 26 inches

6. Tears of joy ✂ 2022, fabric dye on muslin, 20 x 28 inches

7. Kiki egg-plop! plop!!plop! flooop!! plop! *wink (ensayos de winks y sonrisas coquetas) ✂ 2021, fabric dye & acrylic gouache on silk hoop, 9.5 x 9.5 inches

8. Kiki egg-plop! plop!!plop! plop! flooop!! y esa estrella creció grande... ✂ 2021, fabric dye & acrylic gouache on silk hoop, 9.5 x 9.5 inches

9. Kiki dreaming-taking a nap after dancing all night at the discotheque, a few lights still lingering on her wings... ✂ Kiki descansa en su hamaca de telaraña, soñando... ✂ 2022, acrylic gouache on muslin, 26 x 20 inches

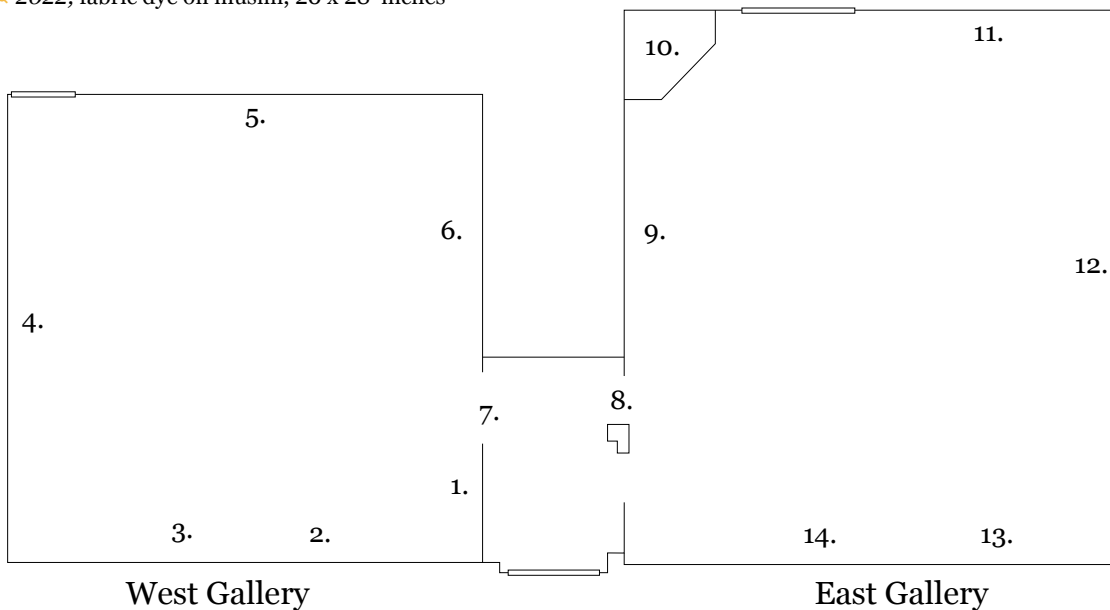
10. Kiki construye una casa de pétalos de rosa y espinas, con hojas de ginkgo, ventanas de canicas de vidrio y un sistema de seguridad sábila. ✂ Kiki builds a house of rose petals & thorns, with ginkgo leaves, glass marbles for windows & an aloe security system. ✂ 2022, acrylic gouache on muslin, 26 x 20 inches

11. ...mientras más luces brillantes de la discoteca se deslicen por mis alas, más vibrantes formas nuevas que iluminarán, mis pecas... mis cachetes, mi género es de luces de colores cambiando al mirar... y con cada Flor que toco, tomó más forma de Flor... piensa Kiki ensueño... ✂ Kiki tries on high heeled shoes & daydreams... every flower I caress with my loooong whisssssspy tongue changes me & the more flowers that I drink from, the more flower I become... ✂ 2022, acrylic gouache on muslin, 20 x 26 inches

12. Kiki hanging upside down from a disco ball, thinking about her next dance move, perspiring pixie dust, over the dancefloor... ✂ Transpirando polvo de hadas mientras cuelga de una disco ball, Kiki piensa en nuevas formas de bailar y formarse al ritmo de la música... ✂ 2022, acrylic gouache on muslin, 20 x 26 inches

13. Kiki (caterpillar) feels some strange wing formations from another time... this made her wiggling about lighter... ✂ Kiki (oruga) imaginando sus alas futuras... haciendo sus movimientos más ligeros... y mueve la cadera!!! ayyy!!! ayyy!!! ✂ 2022, acrylic gouache on muslin, 20 x 31 inches

14. Kiki confunde un tulipán por un aperol spritz, pero encuentra algo más dulce y tierno, una amistad nueva... Kiki emocionada y feliz papalotea en espirales alrededor de esta amistad... ✂ Kiki confuses a tulip for an aperol spritz, but encounters something sweeter & tender, a new friendship... Kiki twirls around full of joy... ✂ 2022, fabric dye on muslin, 20 x 26 inches



i
always
felt more
comfortable,
when i was
an egg

i
could see
i could feel, sense
every single part of my body,
moving, forming,
thinking, being
becoming

i
went from
being one single blob
plop!

&
now there
was ii (two) of us,
a mirror?
an awareness,
a desire to
become
them,
to absorb them
to become whole
again, a
longing

plop!
plop! !plop!
plop! !plop!
floop!!

y
esta
estrella
creció grande

