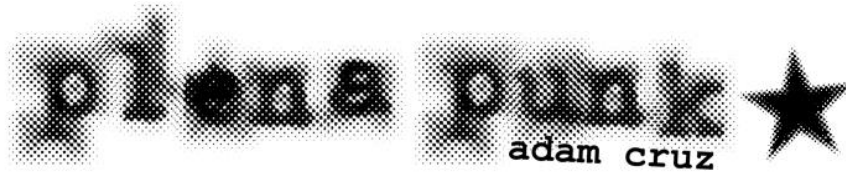


 adam cruz



Curated by Adam Cruz, PLENA PUNK is an exhibit series that delves into Puerto Rican identity, religion, and music. Each art piece is compiled by vectorizing and layering images of objects, musical instruments, and symbols that explore the Puerto Rican diaspora and its impact on culture and on Cruz's own Puerto Rican identity. In graphic design, vectorization is the use of polygons to represent images in computer graphics. Vector graphics are based on vectors, which lead through locations called control points or nodes. Each of these points has a definite position on the x and y axes of the work plane and determines the direction of the path. Furthermore, each path may be assigned a stroke color, shape, curve, thickness, and fill. Employing this technique, Cruz utilizes Puerto Rico's cartography and topography as fashion items, facial marks, and body tattoos. When layered together, these components further broaden Cruz's fascination with androgyny, starkness, and contrast.

ADAM CRUZ – ARTIST STATEMENT:

I've been a DJ since I was ten years old, following in the footsteps of my older cousin who gifted his DJ equipment and record collection to me in 1987. That singular moment changed me forever. My love of music grew exponentially over those years and my experiences DJing at parties broadened. Becoming a DJ was a natural thing for me because of how the stories in the music made me feel. I'm passionate about blending records together and creating new ideas on the spot by using turntables, CDJs, loops, or anything else. Because timing is everything to a DJ, each song commands me to pay attention to its musical form and structure. I take notice of the verses, choruses, and most of all, any sections with a drum break in it. To a great DJ, a lengthy break in a song can open up a world of ideas. You can loop it, blend an acapella track on top and create a "mash-up," or use a drum break to provide the bed for another song entirely.

Each idea becomes a layer that builds to a completed new idea. I've spent countless hours layering and creating in this way.

This layering approach is also directly related to other interests in my life, namely graphic design and music production. Given my love for DJing, it's no surprise that I'd also be interested in producing my own music. What I didn't expect was to develop a love for graphic design as well. I can't recall right now the circumstances that led to my first attempt in design, but as early as 2001, I can remember fiddling around with software applications like *Paint* and eventually, *Photoshop* and *Illustrator*. Much like a great DJ, I understood that a great designer knows how to use layers to develop a message and create art. For over 15 years, graphic design and music have been closely tied together. Each software application has helped to inform my artistic expression.

plena punk ★
adam cruz



"Uno"
Black Ink
3 feet x 3 feet

plena punk ★
adam cruz



"Dos"
Black Ink
3 feet x 3 feet

plena punk ★
adam cruz



"Tres"
Black Ink
3 feet x 3 feet

plena punk ★
adam cruz



"Cuatro"
Black Ink
3 feet x 3 feet

plena punk

adam cruz



"Cinco"
Black Ink
3 feet x 3 feet

plena punk

adam cruz



"Seis"
Black Ink
3 feet x 3 feet

plena punk

adam cruz



"Siete"
Black Ink
3 feet x 3 feet

plena punk ★
adam cruz



"Ocho"
Black Ink
3 feet x 3 feet



3 feet x 3 feet