

Candy Alexandra González  
*West Bay View Fellow 2019*

DIEU /  
DONNE  
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Candy Alexandra González is a Philadelphia-based artist born and raised in the Little Havana community of Miami, FL. They are a multidisciplinary visual artist, poet, activist and trauma-informed educator currently exploring themes of body politics, fatphobia and self-healing through photography, poetry, printmaking and papermaking. González's poetic and visual art practice creates work in the spirit of Professor Brené Brown's Ted Talk titled *The Power of Vulnerability*, where Brown declares that "courage can be defined as a person's ability to tell their story with their whole heart." González's work serves as a space to courageously share their lived



experiences. Their previous work includes a series of poems and long exposure self-portraits titled *Mirror Talk*, where González challenged themselves to confront an inability to look at reflections of their body. Long exposure photography demands that subjects remain absolutely still in order to achieve a crisp image. These self-portraits challenged the artist to confront their reflection by looking directly at the camera lens in complete stillness and under the heat of a clamp light. Capturing these very human, though restrained, movements called back to their physical and emotional discomfort experienced while wearing corsets and body shapers as a teenager.

*I expanded on Mirror Talk through a series of vivid and viscerally crafted pulp paintings. Some of the pulp paintings depict abstracted landscapes created with the use of tape measures, embedded thread and flesh tone pulp paints, and some are large-scale pulp paintings of semi-nude pictures that I embedded within an accumulation of colorful, organic pulp painted textures. These days, my artwork is inspired by the fat liberation movement and grounded in the works of fat liberationists such as, renowned author Roxane Gay, research therapists Dr. Ericka Hart and Sonalee Rashatwar, photographers Laura Aguilar and Shoog McDaniel, and poet Yesika Salgado.*

—Candy Alexandra González



### About the Artist

Candy Alexandra González is a Latinx papermaker, printmaker, book artist, and poet from Miami, FL. In their visual and written work, Candy Alexandra centers the narratives of Latinx immigrants and captures the essence of their own experiences as a queer, first generation Latinx immigrant in the United States. Candy received their MFA in Book Arts + Printmaking from the University of the Arts in 2017. Since graduating, they have been a 40th Street Artist-in-Residence in West Philadelphia, a West Bay View Fellow at Dieu Donn  in Brooklyn, NY, and a Picasso Project Resident Artist at Kensington Health Sciences Academy in North Philadelphia.

### About Dieu Donn 

Dieu Donn  is a leading cultural institution dedicated to serving established and emerging artists through the collaborative creation of contemporary art using the process of hand papermaking.

### About the West Bay View Fellowship

Established in 2018, the West Bay View Fellowship provides support for post-graduate artists with a commitment to paper as a medium. For more information or to learn how to apply, visit [www.dieudonne.org](http://www.dieudonne.org)

### Support

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ABOVE: (TOP) Candy Alexandra Gonz lez in Studio (BOTTOM) Gonz lez in studio.



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