Xavier Cortada Blends Art & Science

By Elman + Perez-Trujillo + Rivas

Xavier Cortada (b.1964) grew up in Miami and holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Miami College of Arts and Sciences (Bachelor of Arts, 1986), the Miami Business School (Master of Business Administration, 1992), and a Juris Doctor (1991). His science art practice is oriented toward social engagement and the environment. He has created numerous collaborative art projects, including peace murals in Cyprus and Northern Ireland, child welfare murals in Botswana and Panama, AIDS murals in Switzerland and South Africa, juvenile justice murals and projects in Miami and Philadelphia, and eco-art projects in Taiwan, Hawaii, and Holland.

Cortada has also been commissioned to create art for CERN, and his engaged art-science practice at Florida International University, Cortada developed works depicting the glass shells of diatoms preserved in sedimentary data collected at a watershed in New Hampshire's White Mountains. Collaborating with the Florida Coastal Everglades LTER team, Cortada is currently working with scientists at Hubbard Brook LTER on a water cycle visualization project driven by real-time core samples studied by scientists to grow our understanding of sea level rise in South Florida. From 2011-18, Cortada based in Antarctica to reclaim it for nature and launch an eco-art reforestation project in the North Pole to address sea level rise and global climate change.


Cortada is a 2007 Antarctic Artists and Writers Program Fellow. He has also worked with a population geneticist on a project exploring our ancestral journeys out of Africa 60,000 years ago, and with a molecular biologist to synthesize an actual DNA strand like particle. The five giant banners hang at the location (100m below sea level) where the CMS experiment has used to discover a new Higgs-specific art installation capturing the five search strategies toward social engagement and the environment. He has created numerous collaborative art projects, including peace murals in Cyprus and Northern Ireland, child welfare murals in Botswana and Panama, AIDS murals in Switzerland and South Africa, juvenile justice murals and projects in Miami and Philadelphia, and eco-art projects in Taiwan, Hawaii, and Holland.


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