

Alina Perez

The Whole World is My Father

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I prefer the uncertainty of not knowing where you are
because to me you are everywhere

both of us existing in a singular moment
on a singular sphere
floating in a giant galaxy
exactly right now

both of us
all of us
within a galaxy's womb where bromeliads grow in abundance
like secrets
like whispering, like pythons, and green iguanas

abundant like micro-ecosystems, and our pink flora, and our racing thoughts
abundant like a mothers (un)conditional love
abundant like utopic-freshwater-marshes
abundant like pollen and pattern

all of us in a galaxy's womb where maybe there once was
peace

or molten lava crackling

to me you are nothing

maybe on a hot day when each of my crevices sweat and stick together
maybe when the hot pavement and the steel horseshoes melt together
maybe the steel and hot heated aluminum and horses and pink pantyhose and your rough shave
and this sweet guava have more in common than we think

maybe on a hot day
the sweat that burns my eyes will remind me of your dark black eyebrows and how maybe today
they're not black anymore
but more grey, like steel

like aluminum
like thermal expansion

I prefer the uncertainty of not knowing where you are
because to me, you are everywhere

Alina Perez (b. 1995, Miami, Florida. Lives and works in New York) received their BFA in Painting from the Rhode Island School of Design and their MFA in Painting and Printmaking from the Yale School of Art. Perez was a participant at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in 2017, and has attended residencies at the Fine Arts Works Center in Provincetown, the OxBow School of Art in Michigan and the Vermont Studio Center. Their work has been exhibited at the Taubman Museum of Art, Virginia; Atlanta Contemporary, Georgia; Arcadia Missa, London; James Cohan Gallery, New York; Rachel Uffner, New York; Company Gallery, New York; M+B, Los Angeles and Deli Gallery, New York.