



MARIETTA MURTON

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Meet Marietta D. Murton. She is a Peruvian artist based in Atlanta with a portfolio displayed at a range of clients including the Coca-Cola Company, the Mercedes-Benz North American Headquarters, Gables Residential properties, and both the Ecuadorian and Mexican Consulates here in Atlanta. Though Marietta did not start off as an artist, her art career has blossomed.

She came to the United States, with an engineering degree, but in 2014 decided to return to school to study design. During this time, she discovered a passion for people and helping those in need that a career in design alone could not satiate. Upon graduation in 2017, she set off to find herself, by interning at the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs and starting to paint as a respite from life's daily challenges. Soon her guest room was brimming with her art pieces. It was then that a friend suggested she donate the paintings for a local non-profit fundraiser. This was the start of her artistic career. From there, she started to build a name for herself, by working with architects and engineers to make one-of-a-kind size-specific art for the spaces they designed based on the floor plans, finishes, and branding of the space.

Whenever she was not working with clients, Marietta volunteered with students, specifically within immigrant communities, teaching classes to emphasize the benefits that art provides for one's mental health. She has also worked with the Hispanic Mentoring Program, which provides role models and tools for students to follow a litany of career paths.

She also uses her art to advocate and educate both the American and Peruvian public about Moche culture, one of the most advanced societies in the Americas during its time. Marietta only discovered her ties to the Moche last year when she was looking into how to further incorporate her Peruvian roots into her art. Evidence of the Mochica was first discovered in 1987, where they found intricate jewelry, tapestry, ceramics, etc. The archeological site was only two hours from where Marietta was raised on the Peruvian coast so she learned more about her heritage, she found that the same colors and geometric forms she had always been drawn to during school for both engineering and design could be found in the artifacts of the Moche.



The royal garb that Murton used as inspiration for her art

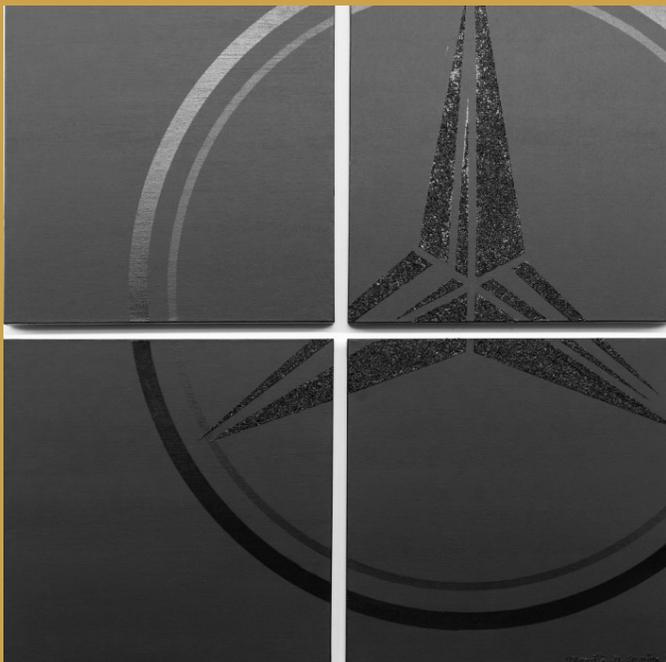
Marietta wanted to pay respect to this long-standing influence and spent over seven months developing a technique to emulate the royal jewelry of the time. The jewelry was commonly made with gold, silver, turquoise, etc. and since those are not commonly accessible, she made them with paper, acrylic, gold leaf, and glue. Marietta then showcased these pieces at Balboa Park's House of Peru in San Diego, titling it "Homage to My Heritage." Marietta Murton now serves as an ambassador promoting awareness of the Moche culture through teaching classes on how to make this ornate jewelry. Marietta recently partnered with the Atlanta Mayor's Office of International Affairs and Girls Inc. to demonstrate how to make Moche jewelry at the GLOW Cultural Celebration. Her drive and passion are evident in how fervently she speaks about her art and culture, and her desire for her art to have a positive impact on the world is extremely inspiring. ♦



The construction of pieces meant to emulate the royal accessories of the Moche



One of her pieces displayed in San Diego



The piece above is one of Marietta Murton's pieces, housed in the Mercedes-Benz North American HQ



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