

**To celebrate the month of Francophonie, you are invited to:**

## **Anatomie Végétale**

**Marthe Aponte**

Solo Show

**March 1<sup>st</sup> – March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Curated by Valerie daval

**Opening Reception Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 7-9 PM**

*With a presentation of "art du Picoté" by the artist at 7pm*

In the white paper, the artist **Marthe Aponte** meticulously punches tiny holes and cuts intricate scenes of plants, fantastic organisms and landscapes. She dissects, opens and sews the paper like a surgeon in a body with meticulousness, patience and precision. The body of women is evoked with the series of dresses, and, also, in the harmonious floral motifs. Her vegetal compositions sculpted in the immaculate white of the paper recall delicate and fragile laces. Marthe embroiders the paper with her tools: the awl and the scissors, arranging full and void spaces often with colored pieces to accentuate the breaths. She also paints and draws in color with a predilection for magenta red in her large floral patterns. Refreshing the ancestral and rare technique of "The Art of Picoté" associated with the ritual gestures of Aboriginal art, the artist offers us the magnificent meditative silence of her imagined organic world.

Embracing multicultural experiences by living in France, Venezuela and America, self-taught artist **Marthe Aponte** draws and paints in her studio today at the edge of the Mojave Desert. Deeply influenced by her French roots, her work is also continuously inspired by African, Australian Aboriginal and Latin American art interwoven Henri Rousseau's jungle. She has found her own unique voice in art thru her contemporary designs made of botanical elements imbued with the feminine. Her current practice focuses on "picoté", a rare technique probably born in France, around the 13th century, defined by delicate patterns and textures produced by piercing tiny holes in paper.

Marthe had her first solo show at the Antelope Valley College Art Gallery in Lancaster in 2013. After another solo show at MOAH (Museum Of Art And History) in Lancaster in 2015, Andi Campognone, curator and director of the MOAH invited her to participate in the Made in Mojave show in 2017. For this occasion, Marthe created an installation as a tribute to Joshua Trees. Marthe is a member of the Los Angeles Experimental Artists group and the Los Angeles Art Association's Gallery 825 and has participated in numerous exhibitions throughout Los Angeles County, including Coagula Curatorial's Sweet 16 Juried Exhibition and 2017's stART Up Art Fair. She was awarded the Beryl Amspoker Memorial Award for Outstanding Female Artists during MOAH's Annual Juried Exhibition, Cedarfest.

This year she will have several solo shows and group shows in different galleries in Los Angeles and surroundings, for example at The Loft At Liz's for the "Forest Bathing" show in May, "Fleurs Imaginaires" at The Metro gallery Pomona in April.

Aponte currently resides in Lancaster, California.