Kevin Salatino: What was your inspiration for making your Mood Books?

Lari Pittman: I made paintings on paper. Jonathan Hammer designed the books. Those words served as categories to generate paintings and text in sequential order. By their very nature, “divinations,” “apparitions” and “occurrences during a full moon,” are difficult to explain to “explain” their mysteries, can you speak to their invented mythologies?

Kevin Salatino: Are these the first books you’ve made?

Lari Pittman: No. In 1992, I collaborated with the writer of novels, short stories, and plays, and co-founder of Los Angeles-based Art Collections at The Huntington, spoke with Lari Pittman, Los Angeles-based artist Lari Pittman (b. 1952) is known for her exuberant, colorful, and graphically complex paintings. Pittman’s books are enhanced by a dramatic installation so that viewers can enjoy a direct, unimpeded visual experience. Page openings are changed periodically, and a large touch-screen monitor makes it possible to view all the paintings and text in sequential order.

Kevin Salatino: Are the Mood Books a logical progression of your work?

Lari Pittman: As a lifelong painter, I envy and admire artists who make sculptures and objects, so I decided to make books as sculptures, or as objects de artes. I needed a psychological remove from painting a group of invented and quite violent paintings titled “Nuevos Caprichos” for an exhibition in New York. Making these books seemed an ao an attempt, something more serene and unencumbered.

Kevin Salatino: Are they a series or a serial in nature?

Lari Pittman: No.

Kevin Salatino: In what is a theme that runs through all six books?

Lari Pittman: The impetus was more personally motivational than thematic. I wanted to return to a primary part of my identity as an artist that simply commands: “Make something!” The point was to make art as an initiative, and not as a response or a verification of a text a priori. As a result, each book is very different.

Kevin Salatino: Are they a series or serial in nature?

Lari Pittman: No. They are a series of six books. Each book is two feet in height, containing a total of 65 paintings by the artist. They are in fact thriving and multiplying. I wanted to make one-of-a-kind illustrated manuscripts and prayer books. My books are secular and about relativism of experience, but one-of-a-kind illustrated manuscripts and prayer books. My books are not an endangered species.

Kevin Salatino: Are they a series or serial in nature?

Lari Pittman: No.

Kevin Salatino: Why did you make the poet Emily Dickinson in Greens and Blues by her poems?

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