



CRISTIAN JOSE ETEROVIC

Opening the Energies

The art of finding the soul is a quest on its own. This may be a journey that for many of us is well worth taking. A review of Cristian Jose Eterovic's latest work reveals a man of awareness and sensitivity to the energies. Each piece is placed with the intention to echo messages from the expansive universe into our true essence to elevate our consciousness and vibration.

Cristian's use of materiality and compositional elements demonstrates the magnificent force and energy possessed by all things. Each piece brings forth the divine living in our own spirit. His artwork is imbued with energized crystals, gems, mineral dyes, and glass, inviting the viewer into a fractal universe full of possibilities.

Cristian has been creating art since he was a young child. His mother encouraged his artistic inclination by enrolling him in every art class possible. Cristian is forever grateful to her for understanding the importance of his enthusiasm for drawing and creating. Around the age of eight, Cristian recalls finishing over one hundred water color paintings in one sitting at their home in San Isidro. It was then that he realized that art would always be a guiding force in his life.

Because art curriculums were not offered at his high school, Pilar Taboada, an accomplished artist and teacher from Spain had an afterschool art program that helped transition Cristian's passion for art from a hobby to a dedicated practice. She became a mentor for him and taught him about color, composition and the human figure using different media such as oils and pastels to name a few. This program of four years opened a window that was crucial to building the foundation for his artistic and design career. He was able to build a portfolio and start exhibiting in galleries, which led to his acceptance into the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, RI.

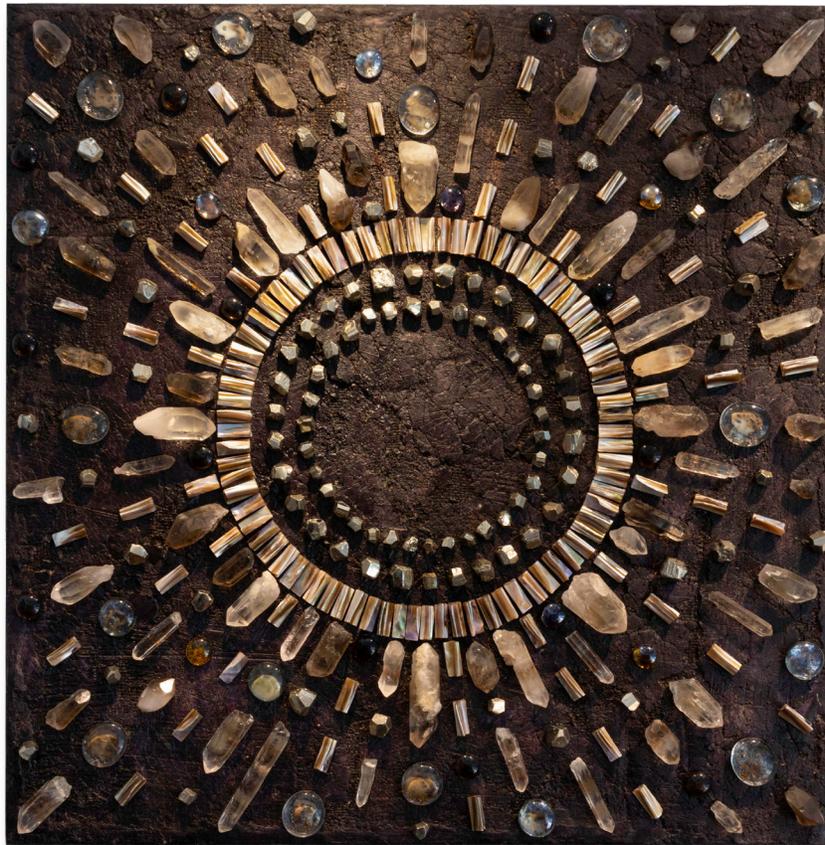
Cristian's artistic talent and creative expression continued to expand as an Architecture student at RISD. This community realized his dreams of a career in art and design. The integrative curriculum at this school allowed the students to easily cross departments, as Cristian often did to the fine art classes. As a student he would frequent New York City and Boston. The allure of the cultural richness is what drew Cristian to explore these cities. He visited the museums and art galleries on a regular basis. The painting department offered a six week winter session program in New York City. Cristian

jumped at the opportunity and went to live with a celebrated Argentinian artist and good family friend, Perez Celis, who gladly took him in in a large artist loft apartment in Greenwich Village. Here he witnessed a very successful artist who had achieved an international following go about his daily routine. Cristian was grateful to Celis and his wife for the lessons they taught him as both mentors and friends.

Upon moving to South Florida after his graduation from RISD, Cristian began a design career in the lighting industry. During this time, he had several important experiences that led him toward a full-time career as an artist. He was chosen to exhibit in the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art as part of the 38th Hottt Competition. He showed a large piece that caught the attention of art critic Roger Hurlburt who wrote, "also fine is Cristian Eterovic's Slog 2, an aggressive work on rough-hewn canvas with dynamically scrubbed colors worked into vague semicircular shapes". He received other honorable mentions and design prizes during these years in Art and Design. Cristian spent these years experimenting with materials and subject matter. It could be said

that architecture and design has formed a foundation for him that he wholly integrates, but art has always been in alignment with his true creative expression.

In the last twenty years Cristian has been undergoing a personal spiritual renaissance. He calls it an "Awakening of the soul" and it has reinvigorated him profoundly. Shamanism and Healing practices have been at the core of this momentous phase in his life and have had a robust impact in his artwork. This soul searching journey has led him in travels around the world from



Smokey Quartz Passage, 24" x 24" x 2.5"

Turkey to India to Peru. He went to visit the countries of his grandparents, Croatia and Switzerland, where he still has family today. Tapping into this field of his own lineage and ancient cultures energized his commitment to honoring the past and the people of his kin. Cristian has immense gratitude for the efforts of his ancestors and keeps them close to his heart.

His quest for knowledge with a special affinity for the ancient world and ruins has also been an ongoing inspiration from where he finds reenergizing artistic vision. After

visiting Pompeii, inspired by the murals, he experimented with a textural background using Plaster of Paris and other aggregates, natural dyes and mixes creating partially cracked textures and rustic surfaces. Many of the themes to his artwork are connected closely to the diversity of elements and cultural finds from these adventures that are mystical in nature and meander between spirituality and the esoteric.

Closest to his heart and most influential to his artwork is the city of Písaq in the Sacred Valley in Peru. This small colonial town hidden at the foot of the Andes Mountains underneath a majestic Inca ruin has an enchantment all its own. This has been the quintessential source of inspiration for Cristian's work and it is where he comes to recollect, find spirit, and immerse in the beauty of the "Altiplano" (high plane). In this area today there is a rich community of Shamans and Healers from Peru and all around the world. The energy here is tantalizing and it is no wonder that it has become a mecca of spiritual seekers. Together with his partner, they bring groups here every year on an "Awakening Journey" that encompasses travel through the Sacred Valley and Macchu Picchu and a tour of the Nazca lines among other sites of spiritual interest. In Písaq, Cristian sources a lot of the crystals and gems that he utilizes in his compositions. His favorite pastime is to go on walks around town seeking little treasures. He also visits the local markets to pick up natural dyes, which can be found in the irradiant colors that Cristian loves.

An important part of these trips is the Shamanic plant medicine ceremonies. These millenary practices, originated mainly from the Indians from the Amazon basin are

now widely practiced in the Sacred Valley. The ceremonies provide an exercise in self-exploration that has had a big impact on Cristian's own growth and healing. He compares the experience to peeling back the skins of an onion. Each time he gets closer to a true awareness and making a deeper connection to the Earth or "la Pachamama." He realizes how through these journeys he can feel the heart beat of Gaia, the Earth, our mother, our giver. With incredible gratitude, humility and respect, Cristian utilizes these experiences to create a connection with mother earth, our planet, which is in dire need of our love and attention now more than ever. It is from this fountain of energy that he draws his subject matter and manifests it in his artwork. Cristian believes the first step in any process is making ourselves whole again so that from there everything can unfold in a ripple effect of elevated consciousness and soul vibration.

Cristian has recently relocated his studio to Asheville, North Carolina after many inspiring



Blue Moon, 17" x 15" x 1.5"

years in Miami. He is still deeply connected to Miami and here, in the lush foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, he finds himself adding to his palette of inspiration, energized by the change of environment and nature. His most recent work is focused on facilitating a feeling of connectedness between us and the Universe. His creativity has been driven by interest in energetic portals and the influence they may have on people, similar to the

effects of ancient studies of astrology. These expressions never leave aside the affinity that he has with the ancient sites and places of origin that have come to define him. In his artistic journey he believes, that just like in life, “if you find the pieces you can bring them together as they were meant to be, and in doing so, you may uncover your connection to the guiding energies.”

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Shamanic Sun Wheel, 42" x 42" x 3"