

SALTAPATRÁS

VALENCIA SPAIN-2019



Carmen Lamberti Photography

INTRODUCTION

The "Saltapatrás" is an evocative, multi-sensory journey that takes its name from the term historically used to denote those who, because of their complex racial and ethnic heritage, found themselves 'thrown back' down the social hierarchy of the colonial caste system.

This immersive experience, featuring a compelling blend of artistic performances, poetry readings, and photography, serves as both a poetic homage and a daring challenge.

Our work as Hispanic artists celebrates our intricate ancestries—each a living mosaic of perseverance, survival, and innovation. Despite oppressive histories, these marginalized or misunderstood cultures have thrived, redefined, and reimagined themselves in awe-inspiring ways.

The term "Saltapatrás" itself serves as a poignant reminder of the lengths people have gone to escape the stigmatizing and limiting categories imposed by colonization, including the altering of racial classifications for higher social standing.



"INHERITING THE STAGE: DECOLONIZING NARRATIVES AND RECLAIMING VOICES IN HISPANIC CONTEXTS"

Saltapatrás: Reclaiming Our Narratives, Reimagining Our Identities" event that turns spectators into participants. Drawing inspiration from Augusto Boal's transformative Theater of the Oppressed, this unique segment provides an open platform for attendees to share their own life stories and experiences.

In this vibrant and transformative environment, attendees have the opportunity to take on the roles of actors and protagonists. Rather than adhering to a pre-set script, the narrative unfolds in real-time, shaped by the true, lived experiences of the participants. Like a collective journey of decolonization and self-discovery, each person's contribution adds a new layer to the unfolding story, making it richer and more complex.

The goal is action-oriented and centers on empowerment and dialogue. Participants are encouraged to confront and discuss issues, celebrate their unique identities, and explore the diverse tapestry of collective experience. This dynamic engagement serves as both a personal and communal space for healing, acceptance, and future envisioning, aiming to affect real and lasting change.

In "Step Into the Spotlight," every voice matters, every story counts, and every participant contributes to a larger, ongoing narrative of decolonization, reclaiming history, and looking forward to a future of greater understanding and unity.



"In the words of participant Ernesto Simancas, who hails from Venezuela and Spain, 'The experience felt therapeutic. I was initially reluctant to express myself freely due to my naturally reserved nature. However, as I became more engaged in the situation, I felt safer and more motivated. This exercise allowed me to confront issues I had been avoiding and inspired me to take further action.'"

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The Ritual: Grounding Coffee Interactive Workshop

In a collaborative endeavor, Costa Rican artist Carmen Lamberti brings a unique dimension to the Grounding Coffee Interactive Workshop, a standout feature of the "Saltapatrás" exhibition. Carmen's roots in Costa Rica's rich coffee culture deepen the workshop's exploration of the intricacies of colonization, identity, and decolonization. The ritual of making coffee serves as an anchor for this workshop, transcending geographical and cultural boundaries to create a language of unity and shared heritage. Carmen Lamberti adds a layer of authenticity by incorporating traditional Costa Rican coffee-making rituals, transforming each cup into a rich sensory and narrative experience.



Carmen incorporates traditional Costa Rican coffee-making rituals, ensuring an authentic such as el =colador- immersive sensory experience. Participants can expect to be captivated by the sights, sounds, and smells that accompany this deeply ingrained cultural practice. More than just a cup of coffee, it becomes a journey through the nation's history, its challenges, and its triumphs, making every sip a testament to resilience and community.

As part of this coffee grounding ritual, we will explore the shadowy corners of coffee's history—its roots in colonization, its impact on indigenous communities, and its role in perpetuating economic disparities. Participants are encouraged to brainstorm alternatives, to visualize ethical practices, and to imagine how the simple act of making and drinking coffee could be transformed into a decolonial practice.

The Grounding Coffee ritual invites us to acknowledge coffee's colonial past, while also imagining it as a decolonizing act. A new narrative around coffee can be created in this workshop, which will transform the way we think, produce, and consume this ubiquitous yet overlooked commodity.



Saltapatras

A POETRY WORKSHOP FOR REIMAGINING IDENTITY"

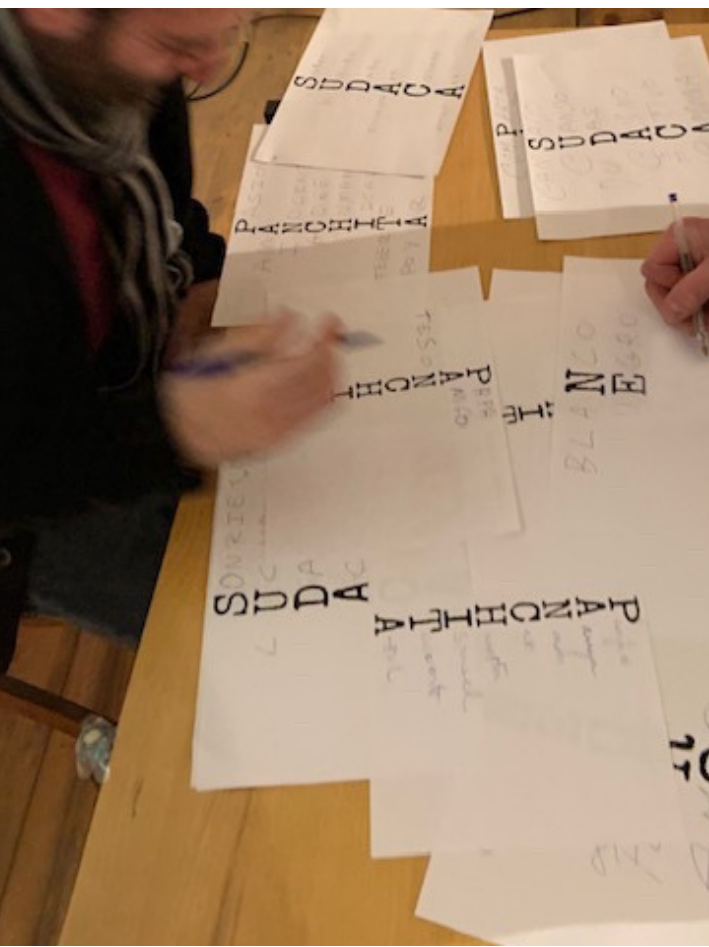
by Carmen Lamberti

is an innovative and impactful journey into the power of language to shape our realities. In this participatory workshop, we delve into the process of reclaiming and redefining derogatory terms historically used to marginalize immigrant communities. We invite you to turn words of insult into anthems of empowerment through creative wordplay and poetic expressions.

Drawing on the rich tapestry of our diverse histories, cultures, and personal experiences, we will collectively engage in the transformative potential of poetry. This workshop does more than offer a critique of colonial and derogatory language—it enables participants to take those very words and reformulate them into tools for liberation and self-affirmation.

Through playful exercises and guided discussions, we will dismantle derogatory terms and construct new meanings that celebrate the dignity and resilience of immigrant identities.

Reimagining identity offers a jubilant and transformative space for participants to engage with language as a tool for personal and collective liberation. In this interactive session, we don't just examine derogatory terms and their history; we reimagine them, reclaiming these words as symbols of empowerment and instruments of joy.



The joy of reclamation

Inspired by the subversive and celebratory aspects of language, this workshop allows each participant to participate in the act of reclamation. Through a series of guided poetic exercises, discussions, and collaborative wordplay, we will reframe language that has been used to marginalize and oppress. Participants will experience the exhilarating freedom that comes from turning words of confinement into phrases of possibility

Much like the groundbreaking work showcased in the "Saltapatrás" exhibition, this workshop aims to be a joyous celebration of our complex identities and histories. Come experience the joy of reclamation with us, as we challenge and dismantle restrictive narratives and reclaim the power of words to define ourselves.

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BEHIND THE CURTAIN: THE HIDDEN NARRATIVES OF CASTE

Photography by Adriana Chávez García-Rendón'

Adriana's work delve into the complexities of 'hybrid identities,' those who are caught in the in-between spaces of cultural, ethnic, and racial mixing. Her photographs allow viewers to engage with human experience on a much deeper level through her photographs that capture nuance, dignity, beauty, and perhaps struggle inherent in such identities.

Her provocative photography series, the body itself becomes a canvas on which complex narratives of identity, history, and power are written. Living and working in Spain for over 30 years, her Mexican heritage plays an integral role in her work, forming an intricate backdrop to her personal and artistic explorations.

The photographs are a vivid tableau of historical and cultural reference points. The use of corn, beans, and other elements indigenous to the Americas in the background serves as an ode to the land and its native cultures—simultaneously a foundation and a haunting reminder of a history fraught with colonization and erasure.

Her choice to impersonate different castes may speak to the fluid yet constricted nature of identity in a post-colonial world. By assuming these roles, Adriana challenges the rigid classifications that were imposed on indigenous and mixed-race individuals during colonization. Each impersonation may be her way of reclaiming the power to define herself while exposing the absurdity and harm of such systems.

The impersonations can also be a homage to the many identities that make up her own self, as a Mexican woman in Spain; she is neither fully one nor the other but exists in a liminal space that many immigrants will find familiar.

