FIRELEI BÁEZ

“Wrth feddwl am wrthsafiad menywod, rydym yn meddwl amdano fel rhywbeth y mae gennym ni’r rhyddid i’w wneud bellach. Ond mae yna ragflaenwyr – menywod gwirioneddol ddwys a gwych yn ein hanes sydd mor gryf nes troi’n chwedl. Dim ond yn y Weriniaeth Ddominicaidd y gwelwn ni’r Ciguapa, ond mae bodau tebyg yn cael eu disgrifio mewn llawer o ddiwylliannau eraill. Mae ganddynt bŵer di-ben-draw oherwydd eu gallu i lifo rhwng natur a diwylliant; a gallant dorri llwyth carmig teuluoedd am genedlaethau. Rwy’n hoffi sut mae iaith a delweddau mor ddadlennol o’r canol a’r ymylon. Mae cymaint o’r cwmwl hwnnw o dudalennau llyfrau a greaf yn ymwneud ag ymylnodau, gan ddod ag ymylnodau cyfoes mewn protest i’r hanes hwnnw.... Mae’r dudalen lyfrau hon, y mynegai map hwn, yn llawn hanes penodol, neu fwriad penodol fel arfer. Felly sut ydych chi’n gweithredu yn erbyn y bwriad hwnnw?”

O: ‘FIRELEI BÁEZ with Hồng-Ân Trương’ mewn sgwrs, 2018

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“If you think about female resistance, we think of it as something we have the freedom to do now. But there have been these predecessors – really intense, fantastic women in our histories that are so strong they become mythic. You’ll only find the Ciguapa in the Dominican Republic, but there are many cultures that have similar beings described. They have limitless power because of their ability to flow between nature and culture; and they can break the karmic load of families for generations. I like how language and images are so revealing of the center and the margins. So much of that cloud of book pages that I make is about marginalia, bringing contemporary marginalia in protest to that history.... This book page, this map index, is usually loaded with a specific history, or with a specific intent. So how do you act against that intent?”

From: ‘FIRELEI BÁEZ with Hồng-Ân Trương’ in conversation, 2018

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FIRELEI BÁEZ

Gleiniau Eleke

Eitemau crefyddol yw gleiniau Eleke a gaiff eu gwisgo o amgylch y gwddf gan selogion crefyddau brodorol llwythi Yoruba eu hiaith yn Nigeria a Benin. Pan gawsant eu cludo'n wreiddiol o Orllewin Affrica i'r Caribî cadwodd caethweision Affricanaidd eu traddodiadau drwy eu cynnwys mewn Cristnogaeth, fel sy'n parhau i ddigwydd hyd heddiw. Yn ei phaentiadau, mae Firelei Báez yn gwneud cysylltiadau gweledol sy'n ehangu ein dealltwriaeth o brofiadau alltudol drwy gydblethu darluniau o addurniadau corff, dyluniadau gwallt a thecstilau gyda bywydau menywod y Caribî.

Eleke beads

Eleke beads are religious items worn as beaded necklaces by devotees of the indigenous religions of the Yoruba-speaking tribes of Nigeria and Benin. When originally brought from West Africa to the Caribbean, African slaves retained their traditions by incorporating them with Christianity as is still practiced today. In her paintings, Firelei Báez makes visual connections that further our understanding of diasporic experiences by interweaving depictions of body ornaments, hair designs and textiles with the lives of Caribbean women.

FIRELEI BÁEZ

Octavia E Butler

Nofel ffuglen wyddonol gan yr awdur Americanaidd Octavia E Butler yw *Wild Seed*. Mae ei nofelau'n perthyn i draddodiad syniadaeth ffeministiaeth ddu sy'n dwyn ynghyd themâu sy'n cynnwys ac yn gallu bod yn gysylltiedig â chreoleiddio, caethwasiaeth, hawliau atgenhedlu menywod du a gwleidyddiaeth, ond gan ailadrodd straeon chwedlonol sy'n gysylltiedig ag archdeipiau benywaidd erchyll a cholledig. Gellir gweld dylanwad Butler ym mhaentiadau Firelei Baez sy'n cynnwys y Ciguapa, creadur benywaidd chwedlonol sy'n byw yn y goedwig o lên gwerin y Weriniaeth Ddominicaidd. Gwelir corff y Ciguapa wedi'i orchuddio mewn blew a thorchau o wallt, ei hwyneb wedi'i guddio o'r golwg. Yn ei straeon, mae hi bron yn amhosibl ei chanfod oherwydd ei choesau sy'n wynebu am yn ôl, ac mae'n defnyddio ei phŵer er da neu ddrwg.

Octavia E Butler

Wild Seed is a science fiction novel by the American writer Octavia E Butler. Her novels are situated within the tradition of black feminist thought that brings together themes that include and can be associated with creolization, slavery, black women's reproductive rights and politics, while also retelling mythical and biblical stories attached to monstrous, damned female archetypes. Butlers' influence can be seen in Firelei Baez's paintings which feature the Ciguapa, a feminine mythical forest dwelling creature from Dominican folklore. The Ciguapa's body is seen covered in fur and coils of hair, her face hidden from view. In her stories, she is virtually untraceable because of her backward-facing legs, using her power for good or evil.