

**Xavier Robles de Medina**

b. Paramaribo, Suriname, 1990  
Lives and works in London

**Education**

2017 - 2019

MFA in Fine Art, Goldsmiths, University of London, England

2012

BFA in Painting, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA

BFA in Animation, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA

2008

Bilingual International Baccalaureate Diploma, St.Clare's, Oxford, England

**Selected Exhibitions**

2018

*The Future Looms Dark and This We Can Scarcely*, March 2 – April 9, Barbé Urbain Gallery, Ghent, Belgium (solo)

*Power and Ancestors*, March 3 – April 7, WM Gallery, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

*Jubileum Expo: 25 Jaar Readytex Art Gallery*, February 8 – 18, Readytex Art Gallery, Paramaribo, Suriname

SOLO (title tba), July 5 – 15, Readytex Art Gallery, Paramaribo, Suriname

2017

*TNF*, Readytex Art Gallery, Paramaribo, Suriname (solo)(catalogue)

*X-C: Transference between Neighbours* (w/ Clément Carat), Green Gallery, WOW Amsterdam, Netherlands

*Even My Mum Can Make A Book*, Corridor Project Space, Amsterdam, Netherlands

*If you dream of your tongue, beware*, Catinca Tabacaru Gallery, New York, NY (solo)(catalogue)

*While Meditating on War*, CBK Zuidoost, Amsterdam, Netherlands (curated by Renske de Jong)

2016

*ZIG ZAG ZIM*, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe (catalogue)

*ZIG ZAG ZIM* part II, Catinca Tabacaru Gallery, New York, NY

*25 Years Contemporary Art in Suriname*, Readytex Art Gallery, Paramaribo, Suriname (curated by Sasha Dees)

2015

*Fictions and Constructions* (w/ Rui Chafes and Felix R. Cid), Catinca Tabacaru Gallery, New York, NY

2014

*OPEN*, WOW Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands

*It Begins on Paper*, Catinca Tabacaru Gallery, New York, USA (catalogue)

2013

*Ever Ours*, Beethoven Festival: LOVE 2013, Chicago, USA (curated by Catinca Tabacaru)(catalogue)

*Slideluck*, Oglethorpe Gallery, Savannah, USA

*THE SKETCHBOOK SHOW!!!*, Ashmore Gallery, Savannah, USA

2012

*META*, Gallery 263, Cambridge, USA

*Small Works 2012*, Gutstein Gallery, Savannah, USA

*Cherchez La Vérité*, The Porch, Savannah, USA

*Mutare*, Little Beasts Gallery, Savannah, USA

*Atelo*, Little Beasts Gallery, Savannah, USA (solo)

*Far From Home*, Blue Gallery, Savannah, USA

*THE SKETCHBOOK SHOW!!!*, Little Beasts Gallery, Savannah, USA

2011

*Drawing Works*, Alexander Gallery, Savannah, USA

2008

*Wall to Wall*, North Wall Gallery, Oxford, England

### **Awards and Accomplishments**

2016

Royal Award for Modern Painting shortlist, Royal Palace Amsterdam, Netherlands

2015

Prix de Rome Visual Arts nominee, The Mondriaan Fund, Netherlands

2012

Honors Scholarship, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, USA (2008 - 2012)

United Student Forum Member, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, USA

2011

Cover Artist of Strathmore 300 series Canvas pads, Strathmore Artist Papers, USA

2010

1st place Black and White Drawing, and Canson Award, Foundations Honors Show, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, USA

### **Bibliography**

Grote Nederlandse Kunstkalender (2018)

Korbee, Ada, "Xavier Robles de Medina presenteert kunstboek," Starnieuws Suriname (July 5, 2017)

Wajwakana, Audry, "Xavier Robles de Medina 'signeert' met snelportretten," De Ware Tijd, p. 8A (June 30, 2017)

Dees, Sasha, "Broedplaats WOW Amsterdam," Trendbeheer (April 20, 2017)

Dees, Sasha, "Nederland Represents: Xavier Robles de Medina & Remy Jungerman," Trendbeheer (February 23, 2017)

"If you dream of your tongue, Beware," Wall Street International Magazine (February 14, 2017)

McVey, Kurt, "Surinamese Artist Xavier Robles de Medina Mixes Dream Theory And Politics in

[First Solo Exhibition," Forbes \(January 31, 2017\)](#)

[Ronner, Abby, "Photorealistic Drawings Explore the Trippy Dreamscape of Cultural Identity," The Creators Project, VICE \(January 28, 2017\)](#)

[Zimmer, Lori, "Xavier Robles de Medina at Catinca Tabacaru," Art Nerd New York \(January 24, 2017\)](#)

[Clemoes, Charlie, "Vinteuil - A Conversation with Xavier Robles de Medina" pt. 2, European Echo \(January 20, 2017\)](#)

[Gummels-Relyveld, Cassandra, "Jonge artiest met Surinaamse roots exposeert in New York," De Ware Tijd, p. 6A \(January 19, 2017\)](#)

[Blouin Artinfo, "Xavier Robles de Medina at Catinca Tabacaru Gallery, New York," Blouin Artinfo \(January 18, 2017\)](#)

[Gummels-Relyveld, Cassandra, "Xavier Robles de Medina exposeert in Catinca Tabacaru Gallery in New York," Dagblad Suriname, People, p. 25 \(January 18, 2017\)](#)

[Arabadjis, Chris \(trans. Gummels-Relyveld, Cassandra\), "Eerste solo expositie Xavier Robles de Medina in New York," Starnieuws Suriname \(January 11, 2017\)](#)

[Clemoes, Charlie, "Buy & Create - An interview with Xavier Robles de Medina," European Echo \(December 23, 2016\)](#)

[Perrée, Rob, "The could-be-reality of Xavier Robles de Medina," AFRICANAH \(May 9, 2016\)](#)

[Steins, Edward, "Xavier Robles de Medina streeft naar perfectie," De Ware Tijd, Mens en Maatschappij, p. C4 \(January 30 - 31, 2016\)](#)

[Headley, Kevin, "In Gesprek Met," ATV-Suriname \(January 6, 2016\)](#)

[Vercouteren, Senne, "Faces of WOW: Xavier Robles de Medina," WOW Amsterdam Stories \(November 5, 2015\)](#)

[Goredema, Baynham, "Surinamese artist Xavier Robles de Medina in Zimbabwe," POVO Journal 2015, Issue 07, p. 33 - 35 \(September 2015\)](#)

[Garan'anga, Stephen, "Dzimbahete hosts artist in residency programme," The Herald \(September 11, 2015\)](#)

[Hoefler, Dylan, "Woven With Metaphor: Unraveling the Multifaceted Works of Xavier Robles de Medina," SCAD Painting Blog, Alumni Interview Series, article #2 \(April 17, 2015\)](#)

[Wijnhard, Christio, "Xavier Robles de Medina: Het woord 'kunst' gebruik ik niet om mijn werk te beschrijven," ApuraNetworks \(June 9, 2014\)](#)

[Hersh, Allison, "Art & Soul: SCAD graduate's work pushes boundaries of creativity at Gallery Espresso," Savannah Morning News \(October 13, 2012\)](#)

[Pitter, Michael, "Understanding an Artist," In Parenthesis literary magazine \(October 15, 2012\)](#)

Dawers, Bill, "A Quick Trip Through SCAD's Painting Department in Alexander Hall," Savannah Unplugged (February 2012)

Cover of the promotional SCAD Graduate catalogue, Savannah College of Art and Design (2012)

Featured in the main SCAD promotional catalogue, Savannah College of Art and Design (2012)

Gummels-Relyveld, Cassandra, "Xavier Robles de Medina," Sranan Art Xposed 5th edition, p. 4 - 5 (September 2011)

Strathmore interviewer, "Xavier Robles de Medina, canvas pad cover artist," Strathmore Website (2011)

### **Lectures**

2017

Thursday-Night-Feature (6 July), Readytex Art Gallery, Paramaribo, Suriname

2014

Guest speaker, Academie voor Hoger Kunst- en Cultuuronderwijs (AHKCO), Paramaribo, Suriname

### **Artist Residencies**

2015 - 2017

WOW Amsterdam, the Netherlands

2015

Catinca Tabacaru Gallery - Dzimbanhete Arts Interactions Residency Collaboration, Harare, Zimbabwe

### **Gallery Affiliation**

Catinca Tabacaru Gallery, New York, NY (represented)  
info [at] catincatabacaru [dot] com

Readytex Art Gallery, Paramaribo, Suriname  
info [at] readytexartgallery [dot] com

## **Xavier Robles de Medina**

My work starts where contemporary attitudes intersect Painting's immense historical timeline. I examine a personal set of images to aid in transmitting my own narrative, simultaneously satisfying an affinity for delicate craftsmanship.

Growing up with a beautician and a dentist as parents and an artist grandparent, I was presented with concepts of aesthetics at an early age. To me all three professions involve a practical attitude towards personal aesthetics as well as varying degrees of conceptual engagement. My tools range from (oil) brushes, graphite pencils, ink pens, and dental scalpels. I transform the materials by caressing, massaging, pulling, and pushing skin-like surfaces and forms.

The oil on linen work "Dipi Gron Tiri" (trans. "Deep Waters are Still") recollects the construction of the Surinamese Brokopoondo Reservoir in 1963, which spurred an artificial flooding of villages, driving thousands from their ancestral grounds even as many welcomed it to stimulate economic development. It is clear that this scene is dually informed by current world events, and in some ways mirrors the ambivalence of living between cultures as a Surinamese person in the Netherlands.

My solo exhibition "If you dream of your tongue, beware" presents modestly sized ink, and graphite works on paper. The title is taken from an essay in Eliot Weinberger's "An Elemental Thing." Fascinated by the poetic potential of re-presenting factual information, I start by collecting images mainly from Surinamese news, documentaries, and history books. I compose the drawings by combining ("Pietà"), cropping ("We continued drinking in silence"), and sometimes even reducing the source images so that sparse, concentrated sections of drawing are scattered on the white paper ("Untitled"). For me this translation through drawing, highlights alternate perspectives to the source material, broadening evocations and fuelling new works.