Conflicting stories collide in Naufus Ramírez-Figueroa’s exhibition **Cecília rebelde**. Ramírez-Figueroa explores the catholic St. Cecília and the story of the Totonicapán Uprising of 1820 of indigenous Maya peoples (K’iche’) against the Spanish Empire in Guatemala. More specifically, the artist focuses on the rumor that Atanasio Tzul crowned himself king with the crown of St. Joseph, borrowed from the church, and used the crown of St. Cecília for his wife Felipa Soc.

Ramírez-Figueroa has transformed the Artpace gallery into an airy and contemplative chapel of history.

Five carved-wood paintings, **Dressmaker’s Geometry**, form an open-arched pentagon, inviting viewers to examine patterns that were sourced from Saints and everyday clothing. Utilizing his skills as a printmaker, the artist has carved into wooden panels while pushing his pallet into a newly expanded use of color.

The sounds of the mass-like audio poem written by collaborator St Ezequie, with Melodic Adaptation and Vocal Performance by Julieta García Reyes, wafts throughout the space. The poem is a decima or rhyming poem in Spanish, and the nine stanzas are an auditory mass based on the tale of the folk Cecília, Felipa Soc, that emanate from a small sculpture of a conch shell.

Bronze and resin sculptures, symbolic of adornments of both the catholic St. Cecília and the folk Cecilia sit low to the floor. They highlight a story of sacred rebellion in objects such as a crown of flowers, palm frond, sandals, hand, and mask.

Through a catholic saint and indigenous folk tale, Ramírez-Figueroa continues his series of works examining atrocities and rebellions.

### Gallery Map & Works List

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Dressmaker’s geometry #2 (Cecília rebelde)</th>
<th>Dressmaker’s geometry #1 (Cecília rebelde)</th>
<th>Dressmaker’s geometry #5 (Cecília rebelde)</th>
<th>Dressmaker’s geometry #3 (Cecília rebelde)</th>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>The singing mullosk Resin, speaker, voice</td>
<td>Cecilia’s crown Bronze</td>
<td>Sandals Bronze</td>
<td>Dressmaker’s geometry #3 (Cecília rebelde)</td>
<td>Dressmaker’s geometry #4 (Cecília rebelde)</td>
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<td>5</td>
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Scan to listen to: Misa In Speculum Por Una Corona Ausente
Naufus Ramírez-Figueroa (Guatemala, 1978) lives and works in Guatemala City. He holds a BFA from Emily Carr University, Vancouver, an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and was a research fellow at Jan van Eyck Academy in Maastricht in 2013. Using performance, sound, drawing and sculpture, Ramírez-Figueroa’s work conjures live and sculptural representations that explore themes of loss, displacement and cultural resistance. The Guatemalan Civil War (1960–1996) is a recurring subject in his work, which although often softened by an absurd and humorous approach, fails to conceal the force of history that precedes it.

ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

Since 1995, Artpace has welcomed more than 260 artists through its renowned International Artist-in-Residence program. Annually, Artpace hosts three residencies, which each feature one Texas-based artist, one national artist, and one international artist, who are selected by a notable guest curator. Each eight-week residency culminates in a two-month exhibition on site. The mission of this program is to provide artists with unparalleled resources that allow them to experiment with new ideas and take provocative risks.

The Fall 2021 Residency program is curated by Natalie Bell, Curator at the MIT List Visual Arts Center.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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