

# Jessica Caldas

*I caught you sleeping here, all  
wrapped in wool / Te pillé durmiendo  
aquí, todo envuelto en lana*

2020

Mixed media drawing / Dibujo  
de medios mixtos

44 x 30 in/plg



# JESSICA CALDAS

## Biography

Jessica Caldas is a Puerto Rican American, Florida and Georgia based, artist, advocate, and activist. Her work deals with connecting personal and community narratives to larger themes and social issues. Caldas has participated in numerous emerging artist residencies, including the Atlanta Printmakers Studio in 2011, MINT Gallery's Leap Year Program from 2012-2013, The Creatives Project from 2018-2019, and Vermont Studio Center in 2020. Caldas was awarded The Center for Civic Innovations 2016 Creative Impact award, named Creative Loafing's Best of ATL Artist for 2016 and 2015, received the City of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs Emerging Artist Award in Visual Arts for 2014, and was a finalist for the Forward Arts Foundation's Emerging Artist Award in 2014. Her work has been featured at Burnaway, ArtsAtl, Creative Loafing Atlanta, Atlanta Magazine, Simply Buckhead, and more.

In her advocacy work, Caldas has spent time lobbying for policy at the local level in Georgia and spent time with the YWCA Georgia Women's Policy Institute at the 2016 general assembly to assure the passage of the Rape Kit Bill and in 2016 to stop HB 51 in 2017, a bill that would have harmed the safety of sexual assault survivors on college campuses.

Caldas received her Masters of Fine Arts degree at Georgia State University in 2019 and received her BFA in printmaking from the University of Georgia in 2012. She lives in High Springs, GA.

## Biografía

Jessica Caldas es una artista, defensora y activista puertorriqueña americana con base en Florida y Georgia. Su trabajo trata de conectar las narraciones personales y comunitarias con temas más amplios y cuestiones sociales. Caldas ha participado en numerosas residencias de artistas emergentes, incluyendo el Atlanta Printmakers Studio en 2011, el Programa del Año Bisiesto de la Galería MINT de 2012-2013, The Creatives Project de 2018 a 2019, y el Vermont Studio Center en 2020.

Caldas fue galardonado con el premio Creative Impact del Center for Civic Innovations 2016, fue nombrado el mejor artista ATL de Creative Loafing para 2016 y 2015, recibió el premio al artista emergente de la Oficina de Asuntos Culturales de la Ciudad de Atlanta en Artes Visuales para 2014 y fue finalista del premio al artista emergente de la Forward Arts Foundation en 2014. Su trabajo ha sido presentado en Burnaway, ArtsAtl, Creative Loafing Atlanta, Atlanta Magazine, Simply Buckhead, y más.

En su trabajo de defensa, Caldas ha pasado tiempo presionando por políticas a nivel local en Georgia y pasó tiempo con el Instituto de Políticas de la Mujer de la YWCA Georgia en la asamblea general de 2016 para asegurar la aprobación del proyecto de ley sobre la violación y en 2016 para detener el HB 51 en 2017, un proyecto de ley que habría perjudicado la seguridad de las sobrevivientes de asaltos sexuales en los campus universitarios.

Caldas obtuvo su maestría en Bellas Artes en la Universidad Estatal de Georgia en 2019 y su licenciatura en grabado en la Universidad de Georgia en 2012. Vive en High Springs, GA.

## **Statement**

I am most interested in telling complicated stories about people and communities that connect to larger social concerns and justice issues. Within this story telling, I am seeking to share experiences that are difficult to understand for some but a part of the daily fabric of others. I seek to make these experiences accessible, while still honest, and without sensationalization. I strive for conversation and confrontation within the space of my work. Together, these qualities create room for empathy, action, and change.

My recent work is divided in two ways (that occasionally and often intersect):

1. Focus on the daily lived experiences of women; their triumphs, their struggles, and everything in between. I have built a body of work which reflects on the complicated spaces, both personal and public, that women inhabit and move through.
2. Exploration of the complexities of identity where family history, cultural and social influence, politicization, and

personal desire are both at odds and overlapping. In this exploration identity becomes a fact based excavation of personal history alongside a kind of fictional mythological world building.

While drawing on personal narratives, collected stories, literature, and social movements, my work incorporates drawing, collage, sculpture, installation, performance, and more. I have found that I am most successful with mixed media, immersive, installations, where various mediums work in layers to create a bodily experience mirroring the complexities of the stories I seek to share.

### **Declaración**

Estoy más interesada en contar historias complicadas sobre personas y comunidades que se conectan con preocupaciones sociales más amplias y temas de justicia. Dentro de esta narración de historias, busco compartir experiencias que son difíciles de entender para algunos pero que forman parte del tejido diario de otros. Busco que estas experiencias sean accesibles, aunque sean honestas y sin sensacionalismo. Me esfuerzo por la conversación y la confrontación dentro del espacio de mi trabajo. Juntas, estas cualidades crean un espacio para la empatía, la acción y el cambio.

Mi trabajo reciente está dividido en dos formas (que ocasionalmente y con frecuencia se cruzan):

1. Se centra en las experiencias vividas diariamente por las mujeres; sus triunfos, sus luchas, y todo lo demás. He construido un cúmulo de trabajo que reflexiona sobre los complicados espacios, tanto personales como públicos, que las mujeres habitan y atraviesan.
2. Exploración de las complejidades de la identidad donde la historia familiar, la influencia cultural y social, la politización y el deseo personal están en conflicto y se superponen. En esta exploración la identidad se convierte en una excavación basada en hechos de la historia personal junto con una especie de construcción del mundo mitológico ficticio.

Al tiempo que recorro a narraciones personales, historias recopiladas, literatura y movimientos sociales, mi trabajo incorpora el dibujo, el collage, la escultura, la instalación, la actuación y mucho más. He descubierto que tengo más éxito con los medios mixtos, las instalaciones inmersivas, donde varios medios trabajan en capas para crear una experiencia corporal que refleja las complejidades de las historias que busco compartir.

# JESSICA CALDAS CV

## Education

**Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA**

MFA, *Painting, Drawing, and Printmaking*, May 2019

**University of Georgia, Athens, GA**

BFA, *Studio Art with concentration in printmaking*, May 2012

Minor, *Japanese Language and Literature*, May 2012

## Solo and Two Person Exhibitions

### 2019

*Living Hysterically*, Welch School of Art & Design, University of Georgia, Atlanta, GA

### 2017

*Infringed*, CenterForm with Twin Radius, Atlanta, GA

*GoldSmack*, Eyedrum Art Gallery, Atlanta, GA

### 2016

*Love/d & Sex/ed*, Mammal Gallery, Atlanta, GA

*Surviving, Overcoming, Recovering*, Darrin-Mchone Art Gallery, Harrisonburg, VA

### 2015

*Four Letter Word: Porn Rag*, LadyFest Atlanta, Atlanta, GA

*Can you tell me about it?*, Rialto Center for the Arts, Atlanta, GA

### 2014

*Reconsolidation*, Kibbee Gallery, Atlanta, GA

*Let Some Things Go*, The 9 Ace Gallery, Atlanta, GA

*Two Houses*, The Chastain Arts Center, Atlanta, GA

### 2013

*The work of Jessica Caldas*, Emory Center for Ethics, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

*Falling In...*, Beep Beep Gallery, Atlanta, GA

### 2012

*You are here...*, The Cube Gallery, Atlanta, GA

*Object and Experience*, The Xchange Gallery, Atlanta, GA

**2011**

*Atlanta Printmakers Studio Emerging Artist Exhibition*, Portal Gallery, Atlanta, GA

**Group Exhibitions**

**2020 (expected)**

*TBD*, The Creatives Project, Atlanta, GA

**2019**

*Transcend*, The Creatives Project, Atlanta, GA

*Losing Control: Guns, Government, and Group-Think*, Athens Institute of Contemporary Art in Georgia, Athens, GA

*From the Artist's Collection*, MINT Gallery, Atlanta, GA

*Of Origins and Belonging*, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA

*If I told you...*, Medium Arts, Atlanta, GA

*Notions of Sainly Flesh*, Living Melody Collective at Tempus Projects, Tampa, FL

**2018**

*Re: Program*, Aqua Art Miami, Miami, FL

*Nova*, The Creatives Project, Atlanta, GA

*Economy of a Woman's Touch: In Conversation with Ghada Amer*, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

*Selfie*, Still Point Arts, Alpharetta, GA

*Posed*, Facet Gallery, Atlanta, GA

*The Chastain Experiment*, Chastain Arts Center, Atlanta, GA

*Monster Drawing Rally*, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA

*An exploration of her ritual*, Wish Gallery, Atlanta, GA

**2018**

*Pulp Reality*, Notch 8 Gallery, Atlanta, GA

*Leap Year Retrospective*, Facet Gallery, Atlanta, GA

*Beyond Words*, Curated by Hope Cohn, Swan Coach House Gallery, Atlanta, GA

RAW, The Art Gallery at Indiana University, Kokomo, Indiana

**2017**

*Let's Be Friends*, Hi-Lo Press, Atlanta, GA

*STAND: A Visual Dialogue on Justice*, Curated by Charmaine Harrison at Auburn Avenue Research Library, Atlanta, GA

*Chute*, Curated by Doppler Projects at Blue Mark Studios, Atlanta, GA

**2016**

*Personal Politics REDUX: Artist as Witness, Memory Keeper & Social Conscience*, The University of West Georgia, GA

*Creative Loafing's Best of ATL Party*, The Georgia Freight Depot, Atlanta, GA

*Continuous Cities*, Hi Lo Press, Atlanta, GA

*Personal Politics: Artist as Witness, Memory Keeper & Social Conscience*, The Hudgens Center, Duluth, GA

*I FUCKING LXXX YOU TOO*, Kibbee Gallery, Atlanta, GA

**2015**

*It's not us, it's you*, Beep Beep Gallery, Atlanta, GA

*Ladies First: The Variety Show*, Downtown Players Club, Atlanta, GA

*The Drawing Experiment*, Chastain Arts Center, Atlanta, GA

*Leap Year(s)*, The Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences, Dalton, GA

*Freedom Expressions*, Hartsfield International Airport, Atlanta, GA

*Playbook*, Space:Eight, St. Augustine, FL

*PLASTIQUE, Emerging Artists Awards Winners*, Swan Coach House Gallery, Atlanta, GA

**2014**

*Beyond the Vernacular*, Mammal Gallery, Atlanta, GA

*We are all statistics: Sitting or Standing*, Vida Voce, MINT Gallery, Atlanta, GA

*hymHouse*, Eyedrum Gallery, Atlanta, GA

*2013-2014 Walthall Artists Exhibition, Present by the Zuckerman Museum*, Gallery 72, Atlanta, GA

*Women's Work*, The Xchange Gallery, Atlanta, GA

*Fractured Yet Rising*, ARC Gallery, Chicago, IL



## **2013**

*2012-2013 Leap Year Artists Exhibition*, Atlanta, GA

*Monster Drawing Rally*, The High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA

*Inferno*, Kibbee Gallery, Atlanta, GA

*Keyholders Exhibition*, Decatur Arts Alliance, Decatur, GA

*Providence Art Club All Media Juried Exhibition*, Providence Art Club, Providence, RI

## **2011**

*Atlanta Printmaker's Studio Group Show*, Portal Gallery, Atlanta, GA

*Post Card Pin Up Show*, Mint Gallery, Atlanta, GA

*Alchemy*, Beep Beep Gallery, Atlanta, GA

*Yeah Big! Tiny Pop Up Print Club*, Stumptown Printers, Portland, OR

*Wholly Georgia*, Mint Gallery, Atlanta, GA

*Annual Juried Print Show*, Lamar Dodd School of Art, University of Georgia, Athens, GA

## **2010**

*BFA Exit Printmaking*, Lamar Dodd School of Art, Athens, GA

## **Commissions and Public Art Projects**

### **2019**

*Wild Tired Body (Zanahoria)*, Wild Child, Oakland California

*On the Santa Fe*, Headwaters, High Springs, FL

*With Care: Partnership with Care*, Emory Center for Ethics, Atlanta, GA

### **2018**

*Hope for Georgia Bus*, Atlanta, GA

*Living the Legacy II*, National Center for Civil and Human Rights, Atlanta, GA

*Forward Warrior 2018*, Atlanta, GA

*In Solidarity*, Living Walls, Atlanta, GA

### **2017**

*#3everyday: Where do we go from here...*, Various Public Locations, Atlanta, GA

*Signs of Solidarity: Voter Edition*, Atlanta, GA

*Forward Warrior* 2017, Atlanta, GA

## **2016**

*#3everyday: Shrouded*, Various Public Locations, Atlanta, GA

*Forward Warrior* 2016, Atlanta GA

*We are all Statistics: #every107seconds*, Atlanta, GA

## **2015**

*#3everyday: Preparing to leave*, Various Public Locations, Atlanta, GA

*Disappeared, Part II and Chronostasis*, Downtown Players Club, Atlanta, GA

*Disappeared*, Roots Week, Alternate Roots, Asheville, NC

*We are all Statistics: #every107seconds*, Atlanta, GA

*Reflect*, The Arthur Blank Foundation, Atlanta, GA

*Lore at Sound & Vision*, The Goat Farm Arts Center & the Atlanta Film Festival, Atlanta, GA

## **2014**

*We are all Statistics: Surviving Violence*, Newcastle, Australia

*We are all Statistics: Children of Harrisonburg*, The Collins Center, Harrisonburg, Virginia

*Mass Transit Muse*, Scenography, 7 Stages Theater, Atlanta, GA

## **2013**

*Elevate 2013-Mass Transit Muse*, 5D Storytelling, Atlanta, GA

*Beltline Projects 2013-Mass Transit Muse*, 5D Storytelling, Atlanta, GA

*75 Blue Doors Public Art Project*, WonderRoot and The Boys and Girls Club, Atlanta, GA

*WonderRoot CSA*, WonderRoot, Atlanta, GA

## **2012**

*Elevate 2012-BoMF Project*, Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs, Atlanta, GA

## **Residencies and Fellowships**

**2020 Artist in Residence**, Vermont Studio Center, Burlington, VT

**2019 Artist in Residence**, Tempus Projects, Tampa, FL

**2018 Air Air Resident**, Air Air, Atlanta, GA

**2017-2019 Artist in Residence**, The Creatives Project, Atlanta, GA

**2016 Arts Leader of Metro Atlanta**, Atlanta Regional Commission, Atlanta, GA

**2015 Hatch Pilot Artist**, C4 Atlanta, Atlanta, GA

**2015 Returning AIR**, *Old Furnace Arts Residency*, Harrisonburg, VA

**2014 Artist in Residence**, *The Backyard Bus*, Newcastle, Australia

**2014 Artist In Residence**, *Blue Mountain Center*, New York

**2014 Artist in Residence**, *Old Furnace Arts Residency*, Harrisonburg, VA

**2013-2014 Walthall Fellow**, *WonderRoot*, Atlanta, GA

**2013 Hambidge Fellow**, *Hambidge Arts Center*, GA

**2012-2013 Leap Year Artist in Residence**, *MINT Gallery*, Atlanta, GA

**2011 Emerging Artist in Residence**, *Atlanta Printmakers Studio*, Atlanta, GA

#### **Awards**

**2018 Luminary Award Nominee, Leadership in the Arts**, ArtsAtl, Atlanta, GA

**2017-2018 Laura Patricia Calle Grant Recipient**, Living Walls, Atlanta, GA

**Best of ATL 2016, Best Series to Spark Important Conversation and Reader's Pick Best Performance Artist**, *Creative Loafing*, Atlanta, GA

**Area Distinction Award**, *Georgia State University*, College of the Arts and Science, Atlanta, GA

**Best of ATL 2015, Best Artist Asking Tough Questions**, *Creative Loafing*, Atlanta, GA

**2015 Joan Mitchell Visual Arts Scholar**, *Alternate Roots*, Atlanta, GA

**2014 Emerging Artist Award Finalist**, *Forward Arts Foundation*, Atlanta, GA

**2014 Emerging Artist Award-Visual Arts**, *Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs*, Atlanta, GA

#### **Lectures/Workshops**

**2015 Youth Arts Leaders Gender Workshop**, Office on Children and Youth, Harrisonburg, VA

**2014 Visiting Artist**, TAFE, Newcastle, Australia

**2014 Survivors Stories: Create your story Workshop**, The Collins Center, Harrisonburg, VA

**2014 Visiting Artist Lecture**, Summer Justice Institute, Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA

**2013 InvestMINT Workshop**, MINT Gallery, Atlanta, GA

### **Community and Board Service**

**2016-2017**, Georgia Women's Policy Institute Fellow, YWCA Atlanta

**2015-Present**, C4 Atlanta Board Member, Fundraising Committee and Advocacy Committee

**2011-2014**, Atlanta Printmakers Event Planning Committee