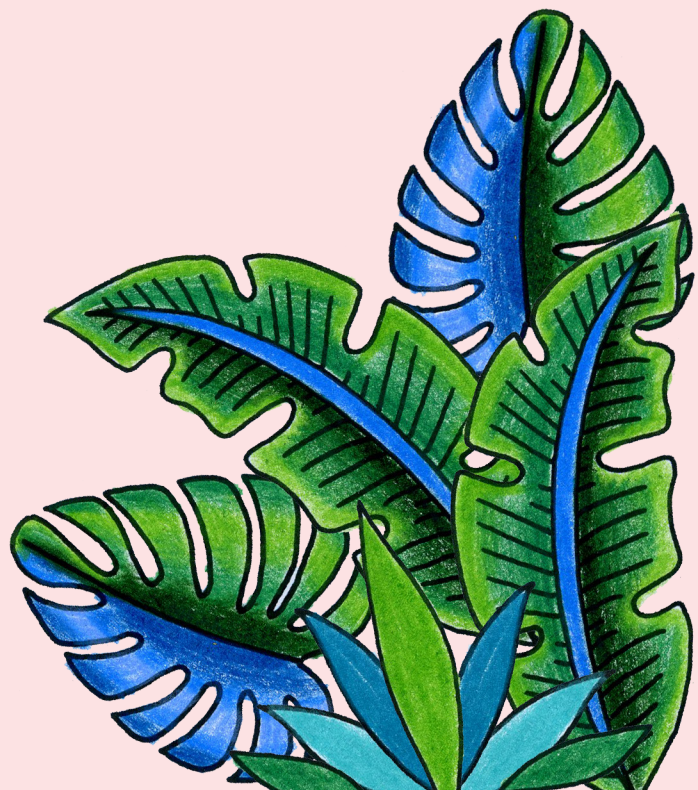


# Retribution Ritual

AN INSTALLATION PROJECT BY SUNNY BUICK



# RETRIBUTION RITUAL

SUNNY BUICK



This project is an installation. One central painting on a room divider covered in wallpaper. The wallpaper design repeats the themes and imagery of the central painting. Over the painting, the title of the work: "Retribution Ritual" in neon on cutout, painted wood. Banners and birds with phrases like: "Revenge fantasy of the oppressed" « Revolution", "Angry as hell" filling out the rest of the wall. Two "sculptures" (actually 2-D cutouts of wahinis on round pedestals), fake plants. Three other small paintings, representing more 2-D fantasy or "Eyecandy" \* hang on another wall.

The goal of the installation is to destabilize the viewer, a confrontation, \* maybe they won't notice the violence in the central image at first. Then they will ask themselves, "What is real and what is fake?" Putting them in a position of doubt, because where there is doubt there is a possibility for further interrogation, taking inventory, searching one's position, one's own opinion, framing the work, asking the questions, inviting a second look. I went through a personal evolution making this work. Hopefully the viewer will see my mistakes, then learn from them. My anger and my revenge fantasy are easier for me than facing my own complicity in the system that oppresses people of color.

Revisionism is a dangerous game to play. Am I rewriting history?

\*When I say "eyecandy" I mean visual pleasure that has no real value other than enjoyment. Junk food for the eyes.

\*When I say confrontational, I mean showing the violence behind the colonisers's fantasy of paradise.

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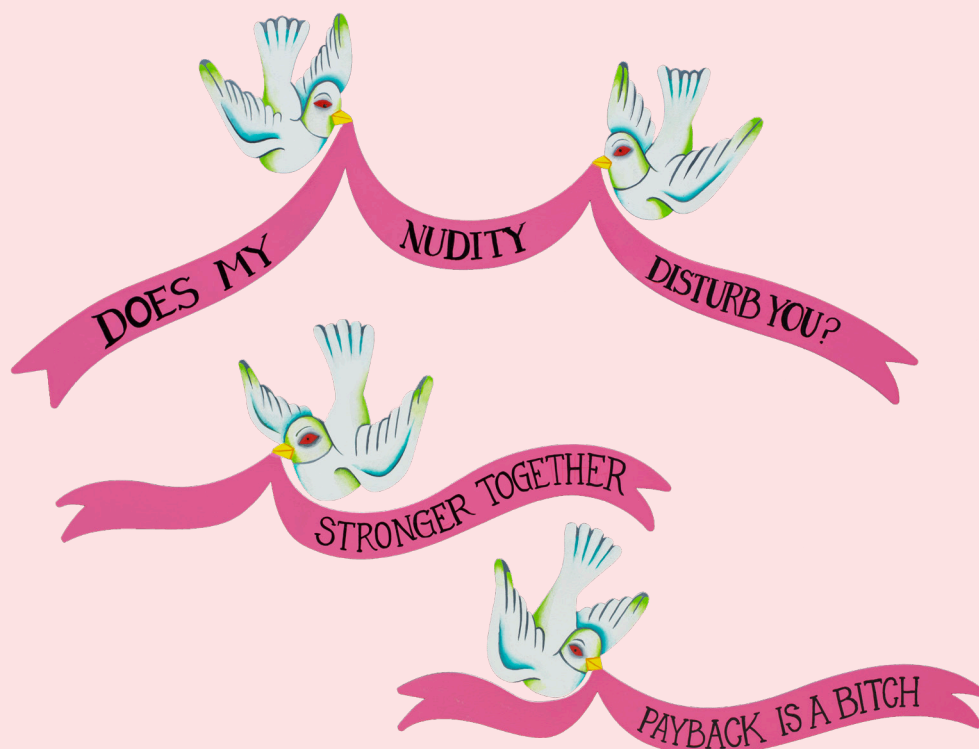
SUNNY BUICK

# Retribution Ritual

Bougainville discovered Polynesia when he arrived in Tahiti in 1768. Returning home enchanted by this island paradise, populated by topless tattooed women who could freely choose their sexual partners, offering themselves to the foreign sailors, whom they believed to be gods.

With their readymade garden of Eden myth and the disobedient Eve, the returning explorers started a campaign to convince the authorities of the need to convert this «savage» population to Christianity, cover their nudity and destroy their pagan idols. We know their real purpose was to exploit the natural resources and create a port of call. They used shame as a psychological domination technique, as it is still used in our capitalist, narcissistic societies today.

This work, *Retribution Ritual*, is a feminist revenge fantasy of the oppressed; a Wahinis' revolution, where they have realized early on that their innocence and generosity have been abused, which leads them to return the violence they have suffered and become the perpetrators, offering the heads of their enemies to the Tiki idol, symbolically dismantling patriarchy.



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What qualifies me to do this project:

I've done several Installation projects in museums.

2017 "Robot Luchadors" MUJAM Museo del Juguete Antiago, Mexico, Mexico City

1999 "Casa de Espantos (House of Spirits)" SOMAR Gallery, San Francisco, California

1998 "Labarynth- Rooms for the Dead" Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, California

Thematic concerns addressed:

Lost Innocence/Resurrection of lost culture

Revenge fantasy/Violence

Inviting people to challenge their attitudes

Erotic desires/Exoticism

Shame/guilt

Racism/Complicity/Colonialism

Materials and media to be used: Neon, wallpaper, paintings, sculpture, lighting, and sound.

Citation references: Clover, Carol J. Men, "Women And Chainsaws" 1992

Angela Pelster-Wiebe "White artists need to start addressing white supremacy in the work"

2018

I will need: help putting up wallpaper and installing objects and paintings, lighting and sound engineer

It would be interesting to hold a forum for people to debate the role and the responsibilities of artist today to address racism in their work.

Read more about my process, losing my innocence and the pain of becoming aware of my complicity [here](#):

Info:

Title : Retribution Ritual  
Size : 80 cm x 60 cm  
Medium : Oil on Wood  
Year : 2018

Title : Revenge Fantasy of the Oppressed  
Size : 54.5 x 24  
Medium : Spray paint and enamel on MDF  
Year : 2018

Title : Wahini  
Size : 50cm x 30cm x 80cm  
Medium : Enamel on MDF  
Year : 2020

Title : Revolution  
Size :  
Medium : Spray paint and enamel on MDF  
Year : 2018

Title : Retribution Ritual (sign)  
Size : 150 cm x 46 cm  
Medium : Enamel on MDF  
Year : 2022

Title : Angry as Hell  
Size :  
Medium : Spray paint and enamel on MDF  
Year : 2018

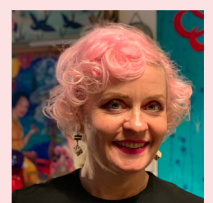
Title : Sunny' Synthetic Plants  
Size : 40 cm x 70 cm  
Medium : acrylic on canvas, wire, ceramic pot  
Year : 2022

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[Instagram](#)

Find out about other art project proposals by Sunny Buick  
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[Link to Bio](#)  
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