

Kathia ST. HILAIRE

*Surface magazine,
In Miami, Kathia St. Hilaire Envisions the Divine*

December 2021

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Using her novel technique of reduction relief printing, the up-and-coming painter renders a dazzling large-scale mural on carved linoleum that envelops angelic Haitian figures in a starry, fragmented dreamscape evocative of Vodun flags. It conjures Zimbabwe cave paintings, Sistine Chapel frescoes, and the political symbolism of Diego Rivera all at once.

BY RYAN WADDOUPS December 07, 2021



Image courtesy of Kathia St. Hilaire, Fringe Projects, and Perrotin; photography by Zack Balber

An interesting feature that's not immediately noticeable: There are many parts to this work that aren't finished. They are left gesturally due to my indecisiveness. This work was made out of small 18 x 24" oil-based relief prints. I had to do this because I worked out of three different studios (Palm Beach, Miami, and New York), and this allowed me to put everything in a suitcase.

How it reflects your practice as a whole: Because of how experimental it was. In practice, I usually love to introduce new materials, composition, and color to create a different type of painting language.

One song that captures its essence: That's a hard question to answer, but I listened to Sampha and podcasts while making this work.