



ALE RAMBAR
VISUAL ARTIST

DOSSIER



ABOUT

Ale Rambar is a Costa Rican artist whose work is based on the topographic analysis of the human form through three dimensional compositions made with layers of paper. Rambar's pieces are created by analyzing human bodies topographically, just like a topographer would analyze mountains, valleys or rivers.

Each piece is cut separately, layer by layer and then assembled by hand to create "human topographies". This technique was developed by Rambar throughout his career as an architect. He found a fascination with topographic maps, their sinuosity and their ability to be transformed into three-dimensional elements.

This artistic technique is used to talk about tolerance, respect among us and respect for the planet. These art pieces seek to open spaces for dialogue in favor of respect and tolerance of all humans.

In the last 5 years Rambar's work has been presented in Costa Rica's National Gallery, Costa Rica's Central Bank Museum, Cartago Museum, and in multiple biennales, such as the Beijing International Art Biennale. Rambar also created the Award for Gender Equality presented by the European Union in Costa Rica, created a design that Costa Rica's Olympic team wore during the Inauguration of the Olympics of Rio de Janeiro.

← **Self-portrait by the sea**, 2018
Three-dimensional composition on layers of paper
58 x 75 cm
Private collection

ALE RAMBAR

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Legal name - Alejandro Ramírez Barboza

Artistic name - Ale Rambar

Nationality - Costa Rica

Birth date - February 14, 1989

Mail - info@alerambar.com

Telephone - (506) 7102 9293

Web - www.alerambar.com

EDUCATION

2013 **Architect** - Véritas University, Costa Rica

2015 **Postgraduate** - Branding, vitrinism and commercial design - Véritas University, Costa Rica

2017 **Diploma** - Program of professionalization of emerging artists - NODE Center, Berlín

PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

2019 **Ambassador of the European Union in Costa Rica** - Pelayo Castro Zuzuarregui. Current ambassador 2015-2019.

2019 **President and First Lady of Costa Rica** - Carlos Alvarado and Claudia Dobles. Current government 2018-2022.

2017 **Award winning singer and songwriter** - Ana Gabriel.

→ **Identity II**, 2018
Three-dimensional composition on layers of paper
80 x 55 cm
\$1200

Photo by Alejandro Ibarra.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2019 **Nuestra tolerancia [Our tolerance]**- Grand Hotel Costa Rica, San José, Costa Rica.

2019 **Nigüentxs Unisex** - Festival Colors of the People, Neon Ice, San José, Costa Rica.

2019 **Award for Gender Equality of the European Union in Costa Rica** - Creator of the award, selected by the ambassadors of the European Union Countries in Costa Rica, San José, Costa Rica.

2019 **Topografías humanas [Human topographies]** - Museum of Cartago, Cartago, Costa Rica.

2018 **La tolerancia del papel [The tolerance of paper]** - National Gallery, San José, Costa Rica.

2018 **La tolerancia del papel [The tolerance of paper]** - Omar Dengo Cultural Center, San José, Costa Rica.

2018 **La tolerancia del papel [The tolerance of paper]** - Creativa University, San José, Costa Rica.

2017 **La topografía de un cuerpo [The topography of a human body]**- Tamarindo Art Wave Festival, Tamarindo, Costa Rica.

2017 **Geodesia Humana [Human Geodesy]** - Galerie Hior, Digital.

2016 **Geografía Humana [Human Geography]** - Aloft Hotel, Lindora, Costa Rica.

2016 **Déndera** - Lindora, Costa Rica.

2014 **Deaquí y Deallá [From here and there]**- San Pedro, Costa Rica.

2013-14 **Columna ilustrada [Illustrated column]** - AmeliaRueda.com, Digital.

2012 **Caída Libre Film** - Short film.





GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2019 **2019 Bidimensional Biennale Marco Aurelio Aguilar** - Cartago Museum, Costa Rica.

2019 **Beijing International Art Biennale** - National Art Museum of China. Beijing, China.

2019 **V Annual Exposition of the Costa Rican Association of Visual Artists**. Cartago Museum, Costa Rica.

2019 **Diversity** - Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, San José, Costa Rica.

2019 **Human Suit** - Cultural Center Spain, San José, Costa Rica.

2018 **XXI Three Dimensional Biennale Marco Aurelio Aguilar** - Cartago Museum, Costa Rica.

2018 **IV Annual Exposition of the Costa Rican Association of Visual Artists** - Winner of the third place. Historical Museum Juan Santamaría. Alajuela, Costa Rica.

2018 **Valoarte Biennale of Art** - Avenida Escazú, Costa Rica.

2018 **La No Bienal** - URBN Escalante, San José, Costa Rica.

2018 **Amazons fighting for life** - National Gallery, San José Costa Rica.

2018 **Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights** - Costa Rican Association of Visual Artists for the United Nations. San José, Costa Rica.

2018 **Tamarindo Art Wave Festival** - Tamarindo, Costa Rica.

2017 **Archetypes of consciousness** - Kroma Gallery, Combai, Costa Rica.

2017 **No more than 35** - Artflow Gallery, Avenida Escazú, Costa Rica.

2016 **The heritage dresses us** - Museums of the Central Bank, Pre-Columbian Gold Museum, San José, Costa Rica.

2016 **San José our runway** - Museums of the Central Bank, Plaza de la Cultura, San José, Costa Rica.

2016 **Foto Urbana** - Museums of the Central Bank, 2nd Avenue, San José, Costa Rica.

2016 **La No Bienal** - Kroma Gallery, Escazú, Costa Rica.

2016 **Inauguration of the Olympics of Rio de Janeiro** - Rio de Janeiro, Brasil.

2016 **Valoarte Biennial of Art** - Avenida Escazú, Costa Rica.

2016 **ArtWalk** - Artflow Gallery, Avenida Escazú, Costa Rica.

2016 **International Design Festival** - Museum of Contemporary Art. Exhibition with Había Una Vez. San José, Costa Rica.

2016 **New York Fashion Week** - Fashion show with Fabrizio Berrocal. New York, EEUU.

2015 **The heritage dresses us** - Pre-Columbian Gold Museum, Central Bank Museums. San José, Costa Rica.

2015 **San José our runway** - Plaza de la Cultura, Central Bank Museums. San José, Costa Rica.

2015 **VICEVERSA** - Cultural Space Julio Le Parc, Mendoza, Argentina.

2015 **ArtWalk** - Artflow Gallery, Avenida Escazú, Costa Rica.

2015 **International Design Festival** - Museum of Contemporary Art. Exhibition with Había Una Vez. San José, Costa Rica.

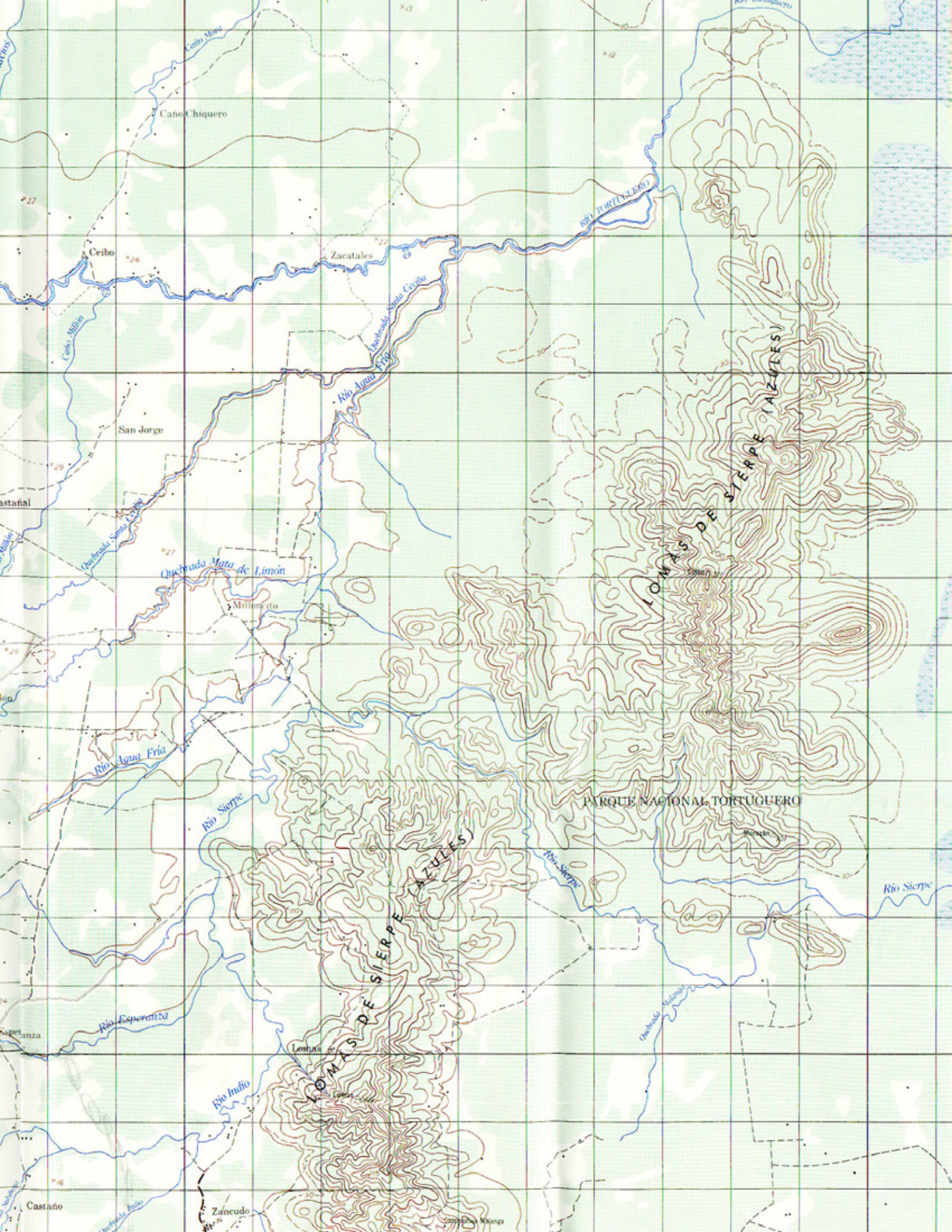
2014 **Costa Rica Fashion Week** - Exhibition with Yurika. San José, Costa Rica.

2007 **Véritas Biennale** - Véritas University, Costa Rica.

← **Men don't cry**, 2018

Three dimensional composition made of layers of paper
82 x 105 cm
Private collection

Photo by Alejandro Ibarra.



INSPIRATION

“While studying architecture, I was struck by the beauty of topographic maps and their transformation into physical three-dimensional elements through the layering of materials.

I came to question what a human body would be like if it were studied as a piece of land and that is how my work was born”.

Initially the topographical approaches were two-dimensional, later evolving into three-dimensional compositions, such as those presented in this document.

These compositions are used as a metaphor for the impact of the human being on the environment, on the respect we owe to nature, as well as the tolerance we owe to ourselves.



TOPOGRAPHIES
COLLECTION 2018

HUMAN TOPOGRAPHIES

The Topographies Collection was based on memories of Rambar's childhood, materialized through techniques developed through his architecture studies.

"Half of my family is from Limón (the caribbean beaches of Costa Rica) and the other half from San José (the central valley of Costa Rica), so from my childhood I remember that it was very common for us to cross the Braulio Carrillo National Park to get from one side of the country to the other. The curves of the road, the sinuosity of the topography and the landscape of the area have been present in my life since I can remember.

Through my studies in architecture, I began to remember how as a child I imagined how the mountains of the Braulio Carrillo National Park had the shape of human figures, so I began to generate topographical studies using human beings instead of terrains. These studies took the form of sculptures using techniques that I learned through architecture.

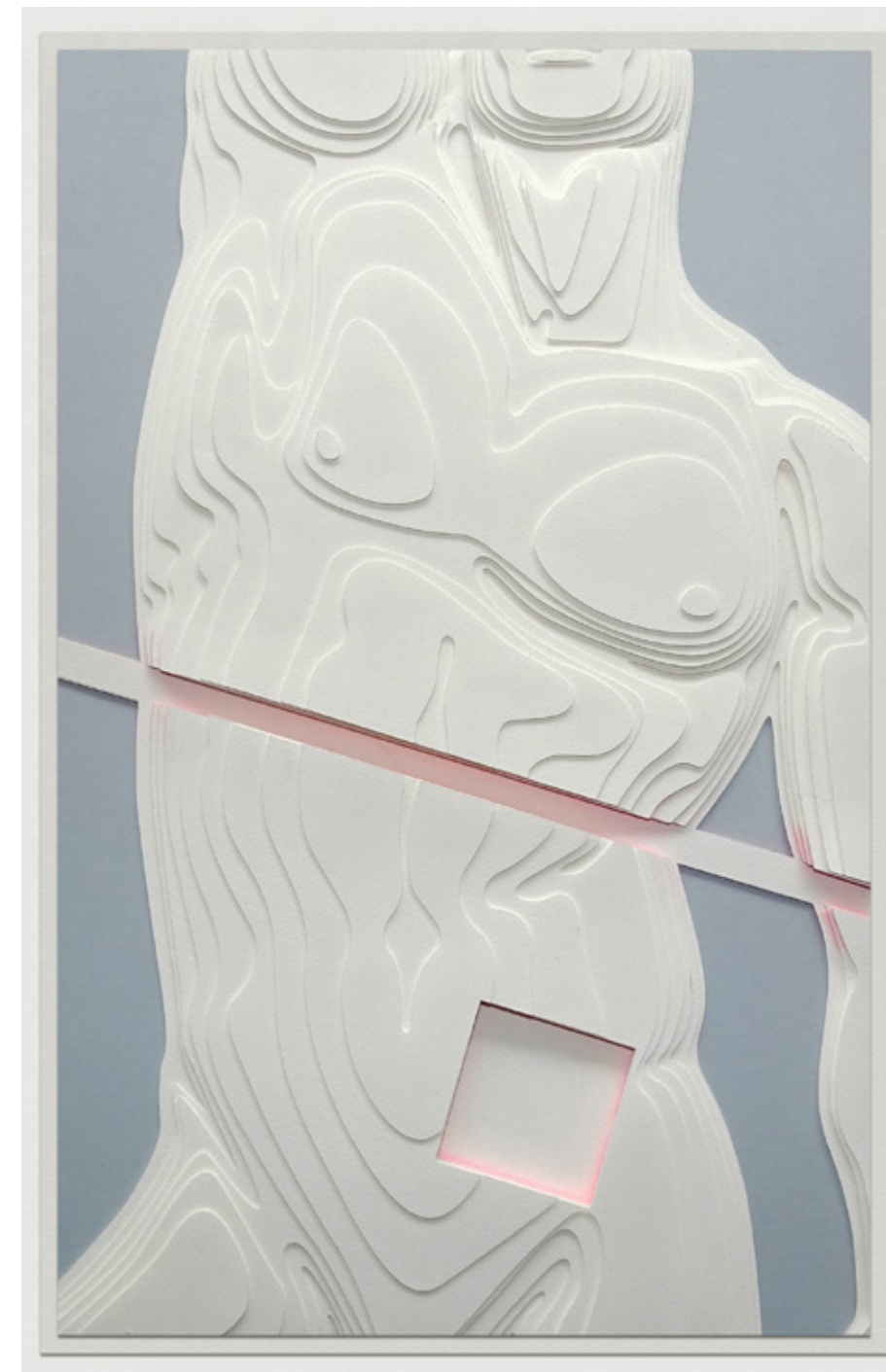
For me, each work is almost an architectural model, a human topography. "

→ **Topography I**, 2016
Three-dimensional composition on layers of paper
80 x 55 cm
\$2.000

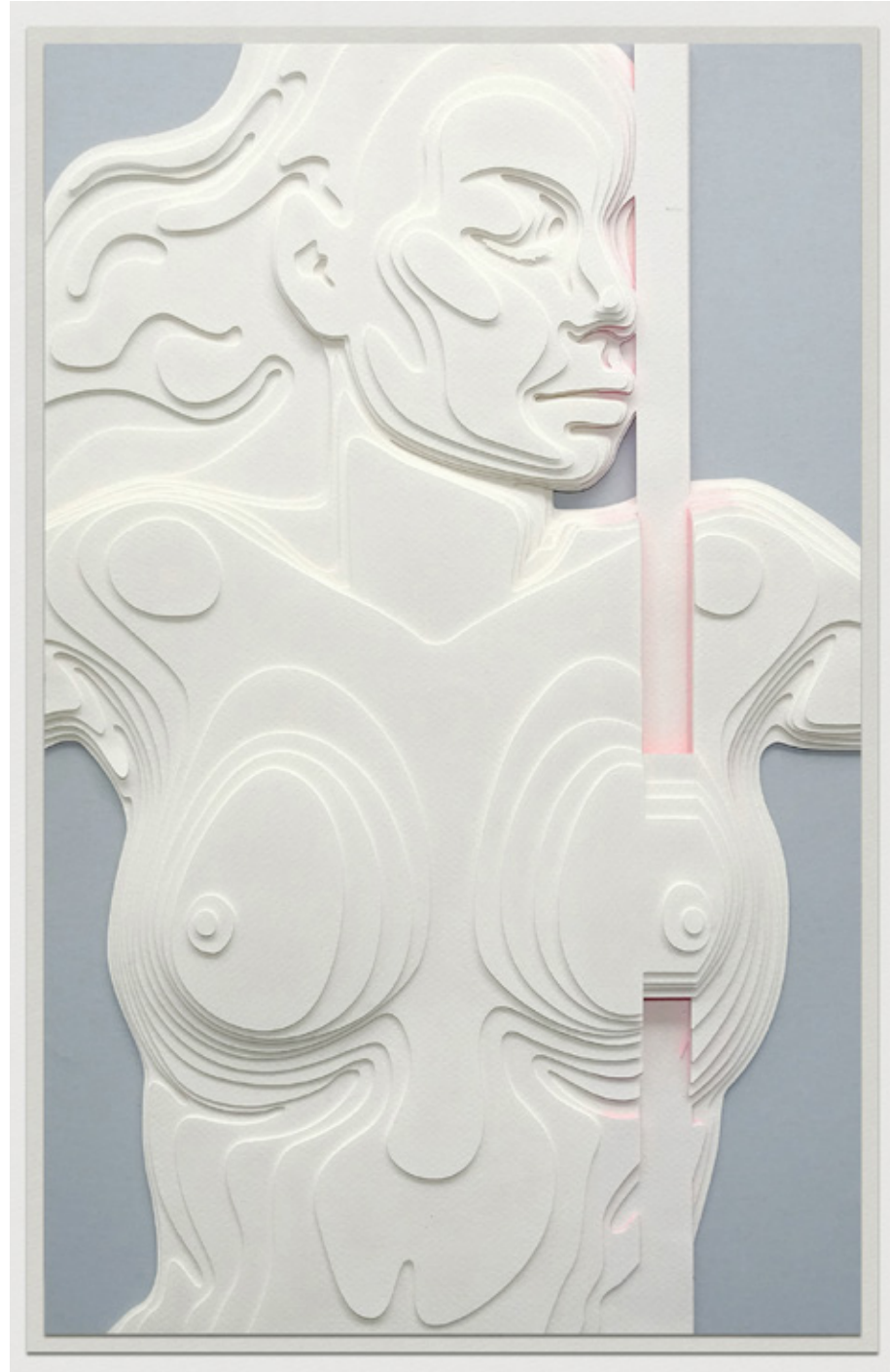




← **Heart**, 2018
Three-dimensional composition on layers of paper
80 x 55 cm
Private collection



↗ **Topography III**, 2016
Three-dimensional composition on layers of paper
45 x 65 cm
\$1.600



→ **Topography II**, 2016
Three-dimensional composition on layers of paper
80 x 55 cm
\$1.200

→ **Miguel**, 2018
Three-dimensional composition on layers of paper
80 x 55 cm
\$1.400





Exposition "The Tolerance of Paper"
Costa Rica's National Gallery,
Costa Rican Center of Science and Culture.
September, 2018.

Photo by Roberto D'Ambrosio.



TOLERANCE
COLLECTION 2018

WHICH IS THE ROLE OF GENDER IN OUR CULTURE?

The Tolerance Collection address social issues that are close to Rambar's personal life.

"In the Topographies collection, I talked about what the natural environment transmits to me. In the Tolerance collection, I pass this voice to human beings, seeking to exemplify observations of our upbringing as Costa Ricans on issues of gender, sexism and sexual diversity towards what I find important to draw attention. Just like mountains should be respected, many people also deserve respect in the fight for equality. "

From the birth of this concept, pieces were generated to analyze the subjects of the self-representation of people, their physical, sexual and emotional identity. This collection features works such as "I do not want long hair," "Men do not cry" and "Playing with dolls," consisting of up to 44 layers of paper. Rambar focuses on the theme of how his experience as Costa Ricans he somehow received strong ideas that may interfere in our expression as unique and independent beings. "Not all girls want long hair, men can cry too, and all children have the freedom to play with whatever they want, including carts and dolls."

This collection features only the colors blue, pink and yellow, which are the most used to represent the masculine, feminine or neutral gender.

Discovery, 2018
Three-dimensional composition on layers of paper
50 x 50 cm
\$2.200

→ **1340Art Magazine**, Q1 2019, Netherlands.
→ **Guía del Orgullo**, Ed. 2018, Costa Rica.





← **Free**, 2018
Three-dimensional composition on layers of paper
80 x 55 cm
Private collection

↶ **Identity I**, 2018
Three-dimensional composition on layers of paper
80 x 55 cm
\$1200

↷ **Identity II**, 2018
Three-dimensional composition on layers of paper
80 x 55 cm
\$1200



➤ **Men don't cry**, 2018
Three-dimensional composition on layers of paper
82 x 105 cm
Private collection



➤ **Marcia**, 2018
Three-dimensional composition on layers of paper
65 x 85 cm
\$1.200

➔ **Intertwined**, 2018
Three-dimensional composition on layers of paper
50 x 125 cm
\$2.500





Playing with dolls, 2018
Three-dimensional composition on layers of paper
120 x 120 cm
\$5.500

*Selected for the
Beijing International
Art Biennale,
China 2019*



I don't want to wear my hair long, 2018
Three-dimensional composition on layers of paper
120 x 120 cm
\$6.000





Exposition "The Tolerance of Paper"
Costa Rica's National Gallery,
Costa Rican Center of Science and Culture.
September, 2018.

Photo by Roberto D'Ambrosio.



LIBERTIES
COLLECTION 2019

TO BE TRAPPED TO BE FREE

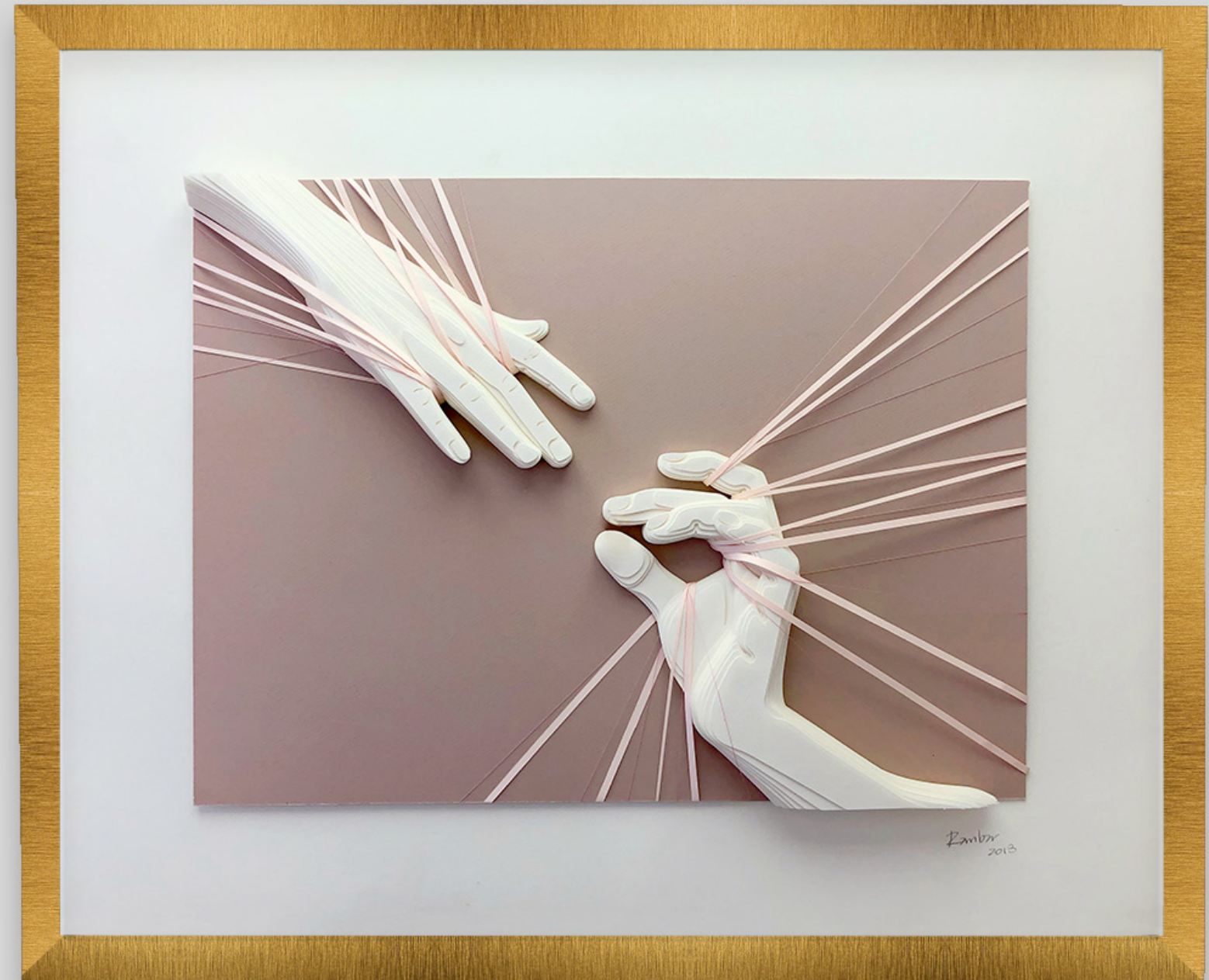
"Liberties" is a collection that studies the concepts of freedom and repression in the LGBTQI+ community.

This collection was created in response to political events of recent years that have had an impact on Costa Rica's society, regarding the issue of equity, both in relation to gender equity and sexual diversity.

"I made several works that will resonate with people who have ever felt discriminated against because of their nature as human beings. They are works that speak of pride, sadness and internal struggles".

As an artist, Rambar has endured the struggles of living on a society where equal rights are not yet equal for everyone. He and his partner have been witness and advocate for the struggle in Costa Rica.

Almost there, 2019
Three-dimensional composition on layers of paper and thread
80 x 60 cm
\$1.600



TEARING STEREOTYPES

"Torn" is an audiovisual production that presents the deconstruction of a masculine figure. A metaphor for masculine fragility. The final result were two pieces of 60 x 60 cm and 25 x 35 cm.

Concept by Ale Rambar. Production by Pablo Serrano. Assistance by Paz Sánchez. Postproduction by Pablo Serrano and Jaime Arroyo. A production of Mind Games. Display available at www.alerambar.com/torn



→ **Torn**, 2019 6:27 min.

→ **Torn**, 2019
Three-dimensional composition on layers of paper and watercolor
50 x 50 cm
\$2.100





← **Pink handkerchief**, 2019

Three-dimensional composition on layers of paper and chiffon
80 x 60 cm
\$1.500

→ **I cry**, 2019

Three-dimensional composition on layers of paper and acrylic
80 x 60 cm
\$2.400





Rise up, 2019
Three-dimensional composition on layers of paper
80 x 110 cm
\$2.000



Look up, 2019
Three-dimensional composition on layers of paper
80 x 110 cm
\$2.000



Exposition "Our Tolerance"

Grand Hotel Costa Rica.

International Film Festival for Diversity, NOS Film Fest.
June, 2019.

Photo by Roberto D'Ambrosio.

THE TECHNIQUE

These pieces are created by a technique Rambar has named as “three-dimensional compositions in layers of paper”. This is a style in which the three-dimensionality of the figure, the nature of the material and its relationship with light give life to each piece.

The selected paper complies with the ISO 9706 standard on permanence, an optimal conservation guarantee. It is a paper free of acids, without optical brighteners and has a treatment against mold.

For the confection of the pieces, human bodies and their topographic curves are analyzed and drawn, one at a time. Each layer is created and calculated by the artist, then cut individually and assembled by hand. “It’s like making a model or a giant puzzle, where you have to consider the structure for each layer, how they are assembled and what are the ideal methods to keep the paper as clean as possible.”

“For the creation of these pieces I use different methods that I have learned thanks to my architectural background. Depending on the material and the desired finish, each piece can be cut by hand, plotter, laser, CNC, or any method to always achieve the desired result. I perceive it as the union of a technological process and a manual one”.



Poignant, 2018
Three-dimensional composition on layers of paper and pastel chalk
50 x 87 cm
Private collection



THE AWARD FOR GENDER EQUITY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION IN COSTA RICA

Rambar had the honor of being invited by Mister Pelayo Castro Zuzuarregui, Ambassador of the European Union in Costa Rica, to design the European Union's Gender Equality Award In Costa Rica.

This award was delivered on International Woman's Day by the ambassadors of Great Britain, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Netherlands and the recognized Mrs. Sonia Picado to the Cantonal Agenda of Women from Desamparados (Acamude) for their continued efforts in the search for equality and the protection of women at social risk.



Award for Gender Equity, 2019
Three-dimensional composition on layers of paper and gold leaf
45 x 45 cm
Private collection

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

This exhibition was made by the Costa Rican Association of Visual Artists for UNESCO as part of the celebration of the International Day of Peace.

"Introspection" is part of a collective exhibition created for the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Each artist was requested to interpret an article of the declaration, Ale Rambar got Number 18:

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance".

Rambar's interpretation described: "I decided to refer to the act of having a connection with our spirituality, in a personal, reflective and meditative way".

Introspection, 2019
Three-dimensional composition on layers of paper and gold paint
100 x 80 cm
Private collection



DESIGN FOR THE OLYMPIC TEAM OF COSTA RICA, FOR THE INAUGURATION OF RIO 2016

Design made for the Costa Rican Olympic Team, for the main inauguration event at the Olympics of Rio de Janeiro 2016. The design is inspired on the traditional motives of Costa Rican ox carts.

The design was applied on a chiffon handkerchief, and complemented a tailored suit created by Costa Rican fashion designer Fabrizio Berrocal.





Exposition "Our Tolerance"

Grand Hotel Costa Rica.

International Film Festival for Diversity, NÓS Film Fest.

June, 2019.

Photo by Roberto D'Ambrosio.

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