

Pairs with Pepón Osorio, *100% Boricua*, 1991

[[Optional Description copy]] Pepón Osorio's sculpture "feels like home" to Manager of School and Gallery Programs La'Kayla Williams. Listen to her reflect on the work.

[[Transcript]]

My name is La'Kayla Williams. I am the Manager of School and Gallery Programs at the Walker Art Center. I am a visual artist and aspiring filmmaker.

I'm looking at Pepón Osorio's 100% Boricua, 1991. This piece looks to be a curio cabinet. It is made of wood, glass, plexiglass, paper, fabric, metal, and plastic. It is painted in different areas. A beautiful light blue, almost like a sky blue, towards the top. And then behind the glass, we see different curios: dolls, plates, and figures. At the top we have a photo in a frame and a decanter.

It feels like walking into my great aunt's home in Mississippi and looking to the right, just to the right of the door, and seeing her tall curio cabinet which also held items that are very similar to this. In Afro-Diasporic communities, curio cabinets are often kept inside the home. And when I say curio—the word fetish was also used, but that's fallen out of practice. They are figures, little figurines, little odds and ends that in many ways hold spirit and memory. A curio cabinet in a home can contain found objects. It can contain gifted items. It can contain handmade items. And it becomes a collection that operates in similar ways as an altar space. I think Pepón Osorio, in the making of this piece, is engaging in a process he witnessed his elders and ancestors do throughout his life: the process of gathering.