

» Visual Art

## Under the Shade of a Paradise



([https://floridareview.cah.ucf.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/34/2020/11/TFR-1-lionel\\_cruet\\_duskdaybreak\\_2-763x1024.jpg](https://floridareview.cah.ucf.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/34/2020/11/TFR-1-lionel_cruet_duskdaybreak_2-763x1024.jpg))

*Lionel Cruet, Dusk/Daybreak 2, 2020.*  
Archival pigment print on photographic paper, 30 x 20 in 76.2 x 50.8 cm each, images by Christian Nguyen/Yi-Gallery © Lionel Cruet 2020.



([https://floridareview.cah.ucf.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/34/2020/11/lionel\\_cruet\\_Paradis-prints\\_2.jpg](https://floridareview.cah.ucf.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/34/2020/11/lionel_cruet_Paradis-prints_2.jpg))

*Lionel Cruet, Paradis 1, 2018. digital photo collages 20 x 30 in © Lionel Cruet 2018.*



([https://floridareview.cah.ucf.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/34/2020/11/TFR-3-lionel\\_cruet\\_duskdaybreak\\_3-771x1024.jpg](https://floridareview.cah.ucf.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/34/2020/11/TFR-3-lionel_cruet_duskdaybreak_3-771x1024.jpg))

*Lionel Cruet, Dusk/Daybreak 3, 2020.*  
Archival pigment print on photographic paper, 30 x 20 in 76.2 x 50.8 cm each, images by Christian Nguyen/Yi-Gallery © Lionel Cruet 2020.



([https://floridareview.cah.ucf.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/34/2020/11/TFR-4-lionel\\_cruet\\_Paradis-prints\\_3-764x1024.jpg](https://floridareview.cah.ucf.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/34/2020/11/TFR-4-lionel_cruet_Paradis-prints_3-764x1024.jpg))

*Lionel Cruet, Paradis 2, 2018. digital photo collages 20 x 30 in © Lionel Cruet 2018.*



([https://floridareview.cah.ucf.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/34/2020/11/TFR-5-lionel\\_cruet\\_duskdaybreak\\_4-770x1024.jpg](https://floridareview.cah.ucf.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/34/2020/11/TFR-5-lionel_cruet_duskdaybreak_4-770x1024.jpg))

*Lionel Cruet, Dusk/Daybreak 4, 2020.*  
Archival pigment print on photographic paper, 30 x 20 in 76.2 x 50.8 cm each,

images by Christian Nguyen/Yi-Gallery ©  
Lionel Cruet 2020.

My artworks and projects focus on ecological subjects, expanding the uses of technologies and capturing environments that escape our sight. These images are samples of two bodies of works. One titled *Paradis*, 2018-2019, and the most recent one *Dusk/Daybreak*, 2020. The images depicted in *Paradis* make us—the viewers—reconsider ideas of “paradise” with the use of images derived from tropical vegetation that intersect and overlap. Each print is carefully crafted through an experimental digital printing process. In *Dusk/Daybreak*, there’s an exploration of the landscape through a nontraditional photographic medium. Each print is made through a layering digital printing process. The images make account for the daylight transitions that allow for the visible and the invisible, uncovering mysteries along the Caribbean coast.

I create large-scale audio and visual installations, experimental digital prints, sound arrangements in space, and videos to recreate spaces, memories, and experiences using imagery of natural spaces as a metaphor to understand the complex and interconnected realities we all live. The sources that generate the artworks are mostly research-based in a digital form or archival material that serve to create the installations themselves. Images of obscure natural spaces and elements that define our intimate relationship to spaces—storage containers, sounds, voices, and songs of proclamations in the void—become the aesthetics of the work. Through my artworks and practice I am constantly confronting geopolitical issues, ecology, technology, the act of speculation about the relations that we create to spaces and natural environments. I am always underlining a conceptual framework that comes from my experiences as a Caribbean colonial and post-colonial being as it is in dialogue with the rest of the world.

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## Lionel Cruet

Lionel Cruet was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and lives and works in New York City and San Juan. Cruet received a BFA from La Escuela de Artes Plásticas en Puerto Rico, an MFA from CUNY - The City College of New York, and an MEd from the College of Saint Rose; was the recipient of the Juan Downey Audiovisual Award in 2013 at the 11th Media Arts Biennale at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Santiago, Chile, and in 2018 was a Fellow at the Socrates Sculpture Park in New York City, and a fellow from The Laundromat Project, an organization that focuses on the arts and social engagement in New York City. Cruet's artworks have been included in exhibitions at the Bronx Museum of the Arts (2017); Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse (2017); Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Puerto Rico (2013); and Universidad de Sagrado Corazón, Puerto Rico (2014); and a solo exhibition at the Bronx River Art Center (2015). Cruet works with the New York City Department of Education, as well as multiple nonprofits that promote art and aesthetic education for immigrant youth. In 2021 he will be in residency at the Centro de Arte Contemporaneo de Quito, Ecuador.

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