

A VISUAL GUIDE TO THE HEART: IMAGES INSPIRED BY THE MUSIC OF ISMAEL RIVERA

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Presentation

A Visual Guide to the Heart is a series that is inspired by the music of Afro-Caribbean singer Ismael Rivera. The project explores the visual properties of music and song by interpreting lyricism, its raw power, socio-political significance, and its intrinsic bond to quotidian experience in the lives of Puerto Rican people. The work focuses primarily on three songs, but also conjures imagery pulled from the author's memory of the artist's vast catalogue. The songs, "Caras Lindas", "La Perla", and "A Medias No", are at center stage here and each respectively speak to the morality of the performer. The beauty in blackness, the fostering of the youth and future generations, and the resistance to corruption and political greed are paramount. The images seen here serve as a testament to the soul and how music, like Maelo himself, is its champion. Rivera is often regarded as one of the most prolific figures at the root of Puerto Rican/Afro-Caribbean identity. Venezuelan journalist Lil Rodríguez said it best, Ismael (Maelo) "is the very essence of the Caribbean. He is almost the very Caribbean, whose histories and voices are almost identical. And the thing is that without Maelo the Caribbean is not complete."





































