**Shellyne Rodríguez**

*Phoenix (The Garbage Offensive)*, 2015

Mixed media installation with broom

67” x 24” x 30”

Addressing the lack of services in the community by the Sanitation Department, the Young Lords took action by marching into the Sanitation offices and demanding brooms. When this request was met with resistance, they took the brooms by force and went into the streets to clean them. Together with the community, they swept large piles of garbage polluting El Barrio into the center of the street and set it on fire, forcing the city to respond to their demands.

This work is an invocation of this action. Charred by the revolutionary fires of burning garbage, this deity takes the shape of the broom and emerges, baring her teeth as a warning to our enemies, or as a warm greeting to our friends. With her Great Azabache hand, she bestows power and protection on all of the children of El Barrio. Charged with the power of over 100 small azabache fists which form together to create a whip, the strength of this weapon is the combined power of the people .

**Shellyne Rodríguez** is a visual artist who works in multiple mediums to depict spaces and subjects engaged in strategies of survival against subjugation. With a Decolonial mindset rooted in hip hop culture, her work utilizes text, drawing, painting, found materials, and sculpture to emphasize her ideas. Shellyne graduated with a BFA in Visual & Critical Studies From the School of Visual Arts and an MFA in Fine Art from CUNY Hunter College. She has had her work and projects exhibited at El Museo del Barrio, Queens Museum, New Museum and her work has recently been commissioned by the city of New York for a permanent public sculpture, which will serve as a monument to the people of the Bronx. Shellyne is also a community organizer and an active member of radical grassroots collective Take Back the Bronx.