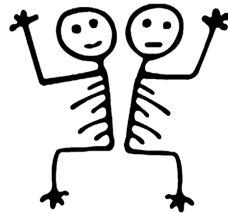
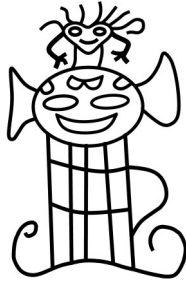


## Turtle

Taíno sea turtle. Believed to be the mother of fertility, mankind, and origin of life.

## Symbiosis

The meaning of this Taíno symbols is unknown. Nana named it *Symbiosis* to honor the mutually beneficial relationships found in nature.



## Twins

The Taíno believed that Twins were born in the same cave as the sun and the moon. They represented forces of nature, having both positive and negative elements, such as rain and drought.

## Tropical Insect

This symbol is believed to be a tropical beetle known as *Caculo*. Is the symbol of strength, endurance, transformation, good fortune and the perseverance of life in the face of adversity and change.



## EXCLUSIVE RETAIL LOCATIONS:

### Cecy's Gallery & Studios

417 Foster St., **Durham, NC**  
[www.CecysGallery.com](http://www.CecysGallery.com)

### NCMA-NC Museum of Art

2110 Blue Ridge Rd, **Raleigh, NC**  
[ncartmuseum.org](http://ncartmuseum.org)

### NC Botanical Garden CH

Sculpture in the Garden Exhibit  
[ncbg.unc.edu/visit/exhibits/sculpture-in-the-garden/](http://ncbg.unc.edu/visit/exhibits/sculpture-in-the-garden/)  
September 15 to December 8, 2024

### Museum of American Indian

One Bowling Green, **New York, NY**  
[americanindian.si.edu](http://americanindian.si.edu)

### El Museo del Barrio

1230 5th Ave, **New York, NY**  
[www.elmuseo.org](http://www.elmuseo.org)

### NANA Abréu ("ah-BRAY-oooh")



Native of Puerto Rico living in Durham. Inspired by her culture, much of Nana's art features petroglyphs carved by the *Taíno* people, indigenous inhabitants of Puerto Rico. Nana is committed to share and preserve her culture through her art.

## MEANING OF TAÍNO PETROGLYPHS

by

*Nana Abréu*

*Boricua Ceramic Artist  
Ceramista Boricua*

These are some likely interpretation of the stone images carved by Taíno People. Dating estimated between 5000 BC to 1700 AD.



Caguana Taíno Ceremonial Park, Utuado, Puerto Rico

## The Taíno People

Original inhabitants of Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti, Bahamas, and the northern Lesser Antilles. In Puerto Rico as a result of colonialism Taíno culture blended into a shared cultural identity from Taíno, African, and European cultures.

[www.NanaAbreu.com](http://www.NanaAbreu.com)



## Angel

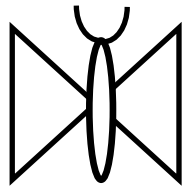


Meaning is unknown, Nana sees an Angel. Angels are believed to be messengers of God, and that you will hear the message as whispers in nature.

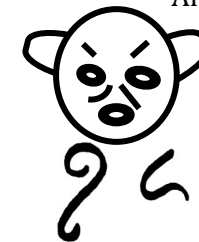
Allow the whisper of this Angel spread your wings to embrace joy.

## Butterfly

Butterflies represent transformation, freedom, rebirth, beauty, and strength. Butterflies undergo complete metamorphosis over four stages in their life cycle (egg, larva, pupa, and adult).



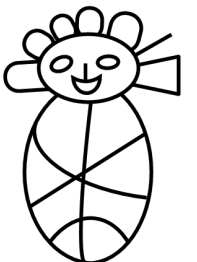
## Areyto Dancer

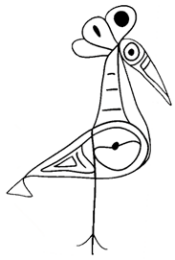


Areyto [arei-to], ceremonial dance held to give thanks, and to guarantee the success of hunts and harvests. These dances provided the power to heal mentally, and physically.

## Baby

Taínos carried their infants on their backs with ropes around them to hold them in place. Many baby images are depicted with ropes tied around them.

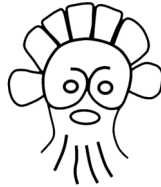




## Big Bird

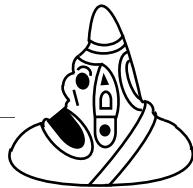
Taínos gave human characteristics to big birds like herons. It symbolizes grace, balance, stability, self reliance, tact, wisdom, and knowledge. Also, believed to be the symbol of masculinity.

## Cacique [kasike]



Taíno chief. It comes from the Taíno word *kassiquan*, meaning *to keep house or king*. The cacique rank was hereditary and sometimes established through democratic means. The headdress defined the wearer's status.

## Cemí



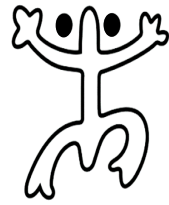
Cemí is a sculptural deity housing Taíno ancestral spirit. Also the God that protected the Taínos from destruction.



## Chicken

Taíno petroglyph representing the domesticated chicken brought into the new world by Europeans. The Taíno people quickly integrated this source of nutrition into their diet.

[www.NanaAbreu.com](http://www.NanaAbreu.com)  
[nana@nanaabeu.com](mailto:nana@nanaabeu.com)

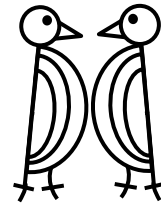


## Coquí

*Eleutherodactylus Coquí* is a tree frog species endemic to *Borikén* (Puerto Rico). It measures approximately one inch and is named for the loud call the males make at night. National symbol of Puerto Rico.

## Eternal lovers

These bird figures, beak-to-beak, may represent the eternal lovers or a possible love scene.



## Fertility Goddess (Atabey)



One of the supreme deities in Taíno religion. She is the goddess of fresh water, fertility, and is the entity who represents the Spirit of the earth.

## Puerto Rican Hibiscus

Symbolizes ephemeral beauty, love, friendship, courage, and joy. Tree indigenous to Puerto Rico. Its flower know as *Flor de Maga*, is the national flower of Puerto Rico.



FB: @NanaAbreuCeramista  
IG: @nana.abreu.ceramista

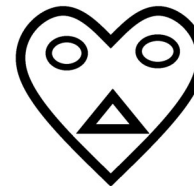


## Love & Abundance

The meaning unknown. Nana named it *Love & Abundance* to serve as a symbol of abundance of joy, merriment, and happiness in your life.

## Moon Goddess

Represents the feminine rhythm of life. Light that shines on the dark side of nature. The sun and the moon were born in the cave of *Mautiatibue* (sun of dawn).



## Mask

Ceremonial Masks depicted the Taíno gods, mythical creatures, and ancestors that would control the forces of good and evil. They guard away malicious spirits, and provide protection.

## Olé

Meaning unknown. Nana named it *Olé*, Spanish phrase used to cheer, and praise flamenco dances. For Nana, *Olé* are the moments of great joy in life. May your life be full of *Olé* moments.



## Perla del Caribe

Meaning unknown. Nana named it *Perla del Caribe* (*Caribbean Pearl*), an endearing name for *Borikén* (PR). Pearls symbolize wisdom, determination, serenity, and romance.

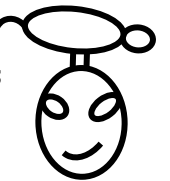


## Shaman

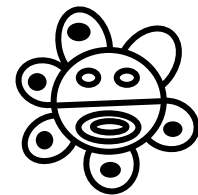


Shaman advised by the Sun

Witch doctors who practice divination and herbal healing. They were considered priests and led rituals in which they would enter a trance state.



Shaman advised by the Birds



## Sun

It represents life giving abundance, energy, healing, clarity, confidence, and peace. The sun and the moon were born in the cave of *Mautiatibue* (sun of dawn). The sun emerges from the cave when the moon falls.

## Sun Flower

Is a symbol of admiration of a higher power, self-respect, being authentic, and embracing your own individuality.

