

The purpose of this thesis is to develop a clear theory of the undocumented change of the *vejigante* mask. The research focuses on a further understanding of *vejigantes*: magnified through traditions and heritage, by an advanced examination into ethnographic research. Moreover, the investigation theorizes the impact of clashing cultures, bringing *vejigantes* from Carnival traditions to contemporary contexts. In conjunction with the research, an experimentation with my personal artwork was done by using unconventional mediums and the combination of classical and contemporary techniques. This provided the platform to encompass the appreciation and the after-effects of the *vejigantes* encounter in a contemporary context. Interviews were conducted with art historians, artisans, and artists to present a perspective and response of the locals on the clear changes that have taken place in the Carnival. This, additionally, developed the theory of the clear alterations of the ceremonies and the social depiction of the *vejigante* within this context. The interviewees contributed evidence to the investigation in which the literature lacked. This created another form of resource known as *word-of-mouth*, which is prevalent in the contribution to the history of the *vejigante*. It is important to include the oral history that derives from *word-of-mouth*. It began initially through stories circulated generations to generations, allowing a cultural history to thrive without literature on the subject. The results display that the *vejigante* mask has been altered in cultural depiction and cost value. It also presents the importance of the impact the United States of America has had on Puerto Rico through cultural assimilation. Finally, there is a presentation of the factors that inevitably transformed the *vejigante* mask.