

# The New York Times

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BLACK & WHITE GALLERY

**LISET CASTILLO: 'PAIN IS UNIVERSAL BUT SO IS HOPE'** Making sand castles is child's play, unless you are Liset Castillo. In the yard behind her Brooklyn studio, this young, Cuban-born artist builds wild, intricate sand castles incorporating elements of different world civilizations and architectural monuments: the Taj Mahal, the Coliseum, the Colossus of Rhodes and the Great Wall of China. She then destroys them, recording the ruin in big, high-gloss photographs (left), half a dozen of which are now showing at Black & White Gallery in Chelsea. (More of her photographs are showing in the survey "Infinite Island: Contemporary Caribbean Art" at the Brooklyn Museum.)

Ideas of chaos and de-

struction come to mind when looking at these images, reminding us that the unrest in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere is nothing new. There is something sad about that, though Ms. Castillo has found a way of exploring it with an acerbic detachment. The sight of the Hollywood sign crumbling into the pyramids is playful yet poignant. All great civilizations eventually come to an end, even our own, just as sand castles on the shore will surely be erased with the rise of the ocean tide. It is only a matter of time. (Through Oct. 13, Black & White Gallery, 636 West 28th Street, Chelsea, 212-244-3007, [blackandwhiteartgallery.com](http://blackandwhiteartgallery.com).)

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