

Exhibition Cuba Now

At the 21c Museum in Louisville, Kentucky

This is a comprehensive exhibition of more than 80 works of contemporary Cuban art from the 21c collection, other institutions, and private collections, as well as several works loaned by the artists themselves.

21c Museum, created by collector Steve Wilson as an extensional space of display for his private collection of XXI century art, is presenting the exhibition Cuba Now until January 8th. This is a comprehensive exhibition of more than 80 works of contemporary Cuban art from the 21c collection, other institutions, and private collections, as well as several works loaned by the artists themselves.

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Cuba Now offers a glimpse of the diversity of themes that contemporary Cuban artists are exploring - cultural identity and disconnection, censorship, race, religion and gender – through a variety of media including sculpture, painting, photography, installation, performance and video. The exhibition will feature the work of emerging artists working in Cuba such as Douglas Perez and Glenda León alongside that of internationally acclaimed artists including Los Carpinteros, Tania Bruguera, and Carlos Garaicoa.

Among the many works that will be exhibited in the United States for the first time are Juan Roberto Diago's most recent large-scale sculptural installation, *Ciudad en ascenso*, 2009; and Yoan Capote's monumental painting *American Appeal*, 2009, which is made of over 40,000 fish hooks. Also included in the exhibition are several

works by influential Havana-based artists such as José Toirac and Angel Delgado, whose works have been banned in Cuba at one time or another.

21c Museum Director William Morrow notes, "Despite the struggles that many Cuban artists face, this exhibition displays the hope, resourcefulness and increasingly global perspective of contemporary Cuban art."

Several public sculptures are also exhibited for the first time in conjunction with *Cuba Now*. 21c has commissioned Alexandre Arrechea (recently chosen to represent Cuba at the upcoming 54th Venice Biennale) to create an eight foot aluminum sculpture from his Elasticity series called *Elastic Empire State, 2011*. Yoan Capote's sculpture, *In-Tran/sit, 2002*, and Armando Mariño's, *The Raft, 2010* are planned for exhibition outside of 21c Museum Hotel as public art.

As part of the Museum's mission to show the work of local and regional artists alongside internationally acclaimed artists, the exhibition will include the works of 23-year-old Carlos Gamez de Francisco, a Cuban immigrant who relocated to Louisville to join his father two years ago. He was trained in painting in Cuba and recently completed a residency at Louisville's Muhammad Ali Center. The exhibition will feature 22 paintings from the 21c collection, in addition to an animation video that debuted at the 3rd Annual Kentucky Short Film and Video Showcase at 21c in 2010.

The 21c Video Lounge will showcase a series of works from the 21c collection, as well as a selection of videos from the exhibition *Video Cubano*, which was recently on view at the 8th Floor Space in New York. *Video Cubano* is a juried exhibition of video art, selected from over 70 submissions in response to an open call to Cuban artists on YouTube. The judges included Rachel Weingeist, Curator, The Shelley and Donald Rubin Private Collection; Corina Matamoros, Curator of Contemporary Cuban Art, Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana, Cuba; Alberto Magnan, Co-Director of MaganMetz, New York; Ben Rodriguez-Cubeñas, Program Director, The Rockefeller Brothers Fund; and Noel Smith, IRA Curator of Latin American and Caribbean Art, University of South Florida.

21c Museum founders Laura Lee Brown and Steve Wilson became fascinated with contemporary Cuban art when they attended the Havana Biennial in 2003. Since then, Brown and Wilson have been purchasing works with the goal of creating an entirely Cuban exhibition. This exhibition is curated from their collection with the help of William Morrow, Director of 21c Museum.

About 21c Museum

21c Museum is North America's first museum dedicated solely to collecting and exhibiting art of the 21st century. The 9,000-square-foot Museum, part of 21c Museum Hotel, was opened in 2006 and is committed to bringing works of art to the public through innovative exhibitions and programs that integrate contemporary art into daily life. The exhibitions and installations of 21c Museum weave into the fabric of the hotel and the surrounding streetscape, with works of art filtering into both public space and unexpected places. There is an opportunity to discover art throughout 21c: on the in-room Video Art Channel, in elevators, public restrooms, courtyards, hallways, the walls and corners of the Proof on Main restaurant and bar, and on the floor. Additionally, 21c Museum presents a variety of cultural programming including a monthly poetry series, a film series, artist lectures and music performances.

Exhibitions

21c Museum has presented a series of more than 35 special exhibitions and installations since its opening in 2006. Recent exhibitions organized by 21c Museum include *Simen Johan: Until the Kingdom Comes*; *Creating Identity: Portraits Today*; *All's Fair in Art and War: Envisioning Conflict*; *Tangled Up In You: Connecting, Coexisting, and Conceiving Identity*; and *Hybridity: The Evolution of Species and Spaces in 21st-Century Art*. 21c Museum has presented projects by Mikhail Baryshnikov and John Waters, as well as traveling exhibitions including *Marc Swanson: Beginning to See the Light*, organized by the Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum.

21c Museum features permanent installations and special exhibitions of works by both emerging and established artists, including Dinh Q Le, Bill Viola, Tony Oursler, Mikhael Subotzky, Sam Taylor-Wood, Kehinde Wiley, Elena Dorfman, David Levinthal, Yinka Shonibare, Anthony Goicolea, Chuck Close, Miguel Angel Rojas, Alfredo Jaar, Jota Castro, and Kara Walker. 21c also fosters regional artists with new commissions, exhibitions, and programs. Among these are the two untitled ceiling light sculptures by Chilean artist Ivan Navarro, the artist's first commission for a public space.

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21c Atrium 1

Credit – Installation View of Cuba Now. Photo by Josh Minogue / Courtesy of 21c Museum

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