



Focus on Puerto Rico Residency



Poncili Creación

October 1–December 31, 2017

JERSEY CITY, NJ, August 30, 2017—Mana Contemporary is partnering with Clocktower and MECA International Art Fair to launch a residency program for artists of the Puerto Rican diaspora, hosted at Mana's Downtown Miami location.

In its entirety, Focus on Puerto Rico is to culminate in a three-month residency for emerging and mid-career artists from Puerto Rico and its diaspora, along with programming to supplement the residency.

ABOUT

Focus on Puerto Rico aims to celebrate emerging, mid-career, and established Puerto Rican artists, providing a platform to garner broader access to, and understanding of Puerto Rico's contemporary social-political landscape—addressing issues facing the territory in relation to the U.S. policy and the Caribbean at-large. The new program will launch with a residency program

this fall at Mana Contemporary's space in Downtown Miami, with studios located in the historic 777 International Mall. All participating artists-in-residence have been chosen through the collaborative efforts of Mana Contemporary, Alanna Heis, and a local panel of artists and organizers from Puerto Rico. In addition to this selection of artists, Mana Contemporary and Clocktower have awarded one exhibiting artist from the Mecanismos section of MECA Art Fair to join the three-month residency in Miami for the fall of 2017.

Through the residency and extensive programming, Focus on Puerto Rico aims to trigger a growing dialogue between Latin American artists living both locally in Miami and abroad.

This program is made possible through the shared initiatives of Mana Contemporary and Clocktower, born from a longstanding relationship between Clocktower Founder, Alanna Heiss, and the Puerto Rican arts community.

During Miami Art Week 2017, all artists-in-residents will showcase their work completed during the Focus on Puerto Rico residency with open studios at 777 International Mall.

AWARDED ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENTS

PONCILI CREACIÓN

Poncili Creación is a group that generates performative and audiovisual experiences that sprout from their interactive sculptures. Since 2012 they have been working with large-scale foam objects in the form of installations, sculptures, and communication tools.

SHANTI LALITA

Shanti Lalita is a cellist, composer, writer, and producer who focuses her work on the creation of soundscapes, translating poetry into music, and vice-versa. Her formation includes a family heritage in classical music.

ULRIK LÓPEZ

López lives and works in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He graduated Magna Cum Laude in sculpture from Escuela de Artes Plásticas (EAP) in 2013. He is a 2014–16 grantee of a BBVA Bancomer – Museo de Arte Carrillo Gil fellowship in México City, and has been included in the last two editions of the Muestra Nacional exhibition in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

MATOTUMBA

Matotumba (MTTMB) is an art collective and experimental music group formed in the year 2000 by audio-visual artists from Puerto Rico mostly known for their improvised electronic-experimental music proposal, visual arts, theatre and site-specific performances, videos and film, and documentaries scores.

ANDRIA MORALES

Andria Morales (b. 1982, New York) is a visual artist and member of the internet-based duo Escobar-Morales. Her work explores identity through a variety of media and collaborative experiments. Her work is included in collections at the Whitney Museum of American Art, El Museo del Barrio, and Yale University Library.

ELIZABETH ROBLES

Elizabeth Robles (b. 1960, Puerto Rico) works mostly in sculpture, installations, and performances at walking distance from her home. The relationship with her surroundings leads her to produce an art of connections and coexistence between objects found or created, materialities, architecture, and the urban and rural fabric.

AWILDA STERLING-DUPREY

(IN COLLABORATION WITH LAURA PATRICIA RA)
Awilda Sterling is an experimentalist, independent multidisciplinary artist. She trained formally in the visual arts and earned a bachelors in humanities from the University of Río Piedras, Puerto Rico, a bachelors in painting from the School of Visual Arts, San Juan, and a MFA from Pratt Institute in New York. She also trained independently in bodywork techniques, and contemporary and experimental dance. She was awarded the USA Artists Fellowship in Dance in 2010.

LAURA PATRICIA RA

Laura Patricia RA is a young filmmaker, documentarian, and multidisciplinary artist from Puerto Rico. Her work explores photography, digital, mixed media, and installation art as means of an endless process of questioning and perception regarding collective inherited narratives and concepts of self. In 2016 she was recognized by The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences with the National Student Production Award for Best Cinematography in her short film *Vórtice*.

YIYO TIRADO

Recipient of the residency from the Mecanismos section of MECA art fair, Yiyo Tirado was born in the city of San Juan Puerto Rico, on September 24, 1990. He studied at the San Antonio College of Río Piedras. In 2008 he began studying mechanical engineering at the University of Puerto Rico in Mayagüez. In 2010 he transferred to the School of Plastic Arts of Puerto Rico (EAP) where he began his baccalaureate in painting. In 2013 he founded the Abayarde Taller de Artes Gráficas, located in Old San Juan.

RAFAEL VARGAS BERNARD

Born in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, Rafael Vargas Bernard studied computer engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology, sculpture at the Escuela de Artes Plásticas de Puerto Rico, and La Práctica at Beta Local. His work explores functional and non-functional

systems (including power structures, economic systems, and generative systems) and societies relationship with these. His work has been exhibited at Exit Art (New York), Peripher (Zürich), and Las Naves (Valencia), and is part of the permanent collection of the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Puerto Rico.

ABOUT MANA CONTEMPORARY

Founded in 2011, Mana Contemporary is dedicated to providing a platform for contemporary art and artists through exhibitions, studio programs, and public programs. Mana's community network began in New Jersey and has since expanded to include Mana Chicago (2013) and Mana Miami (2015). Mana Contemporary continues to create new partnership opportunities that explore the intersection of contemporary art, design, new technologies, and music. For more information, visit www.manacontemporary.com.

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