



## Focus on Puerto Rico Residency



Poncili Creación

October 1–December 31, 2017

MIAMI, FL, September 15, 2017—Mana Contemporary is proud to announce a new residency program developed in partnership with Clocktower Productions and MECA International Art Fair. The Residency program, entitled Focus on Puerto Rico, will be hosted at Mana's new location in downtown Miami and offer studio space to artists of Puerto Rico and its diaspora. In addition to a three-month studio residency, Clocktower will organize programming and open-studio events during Miami Art Week 2017. 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.

Focus on Puerto Rico aims to celebrate Puerto Rican artists and provide 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 Heiss, 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 International Art Fair for the Focus on Puerto Rico residency program.

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. During Miami Art Week 2017, all artists-in-residents will show their work completed over the three-month period with open studios at 777 International Mall, and Clocktower will host programming dedicated to resident artists throughout the week.

### AWARDED ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENTS

#### DANIEL BEJAR

Daniel Bejar is an interdisciplinary artist living and working in New York. His work considers and critiques the representation of history, place, and the self within the structures of power that encompass our physical and digital worlds. Through forms of performance and intervention, Bejar inserts himself and his work into public sites and systems (such as Google search engines, Google Maps, protest rallies at Republican National conventions, and a no-fly zone over the Super Bowl in New Jersey) to construct new narratives within the public realm.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### YIYO TIRADO

Recipient of the residency from the Mecanismos section of MECA art fair, Yiyó 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](http://www.manacontemporary.com).

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