



Camilo Godoy, *Amigxs (Self-portrait with Justin)*, 2017, photograph, 36" x 53

Self-Organize / Auto-Organizar

November 8 - December 16, 2017

Opening Reception with
Proyectos Sabrosos performance
Wednesday, November 15, 6-9pm

Megan Curet Dance Workshop
Wednesday, November 29, 6-8pm

Lizania Cruz Storytelling Workshop
Friday, December 1, 6-8pm

Curator, Sofía Reeser del Rio
Curatorial Assistant, Kiara Ventura

**Amara Abdal Figueroa, Elia Alba, Firelei Báez, Melissa Calderón, Lizania Cruz,
Megan Curet, Camilo Godoy, Jorge González and Chemi Rosado-Seijo, Alicia Grullon,
Adal Maldonado, Steve Maldonado Silvestrini, Carlos Martiel, Proyectos Sabrosos,
Heryk Tomassini, and Lulu Varona**

Self-Organize / Auto-Organizar looks at work that challenges and reimagines the physical, emotional, and geographical boundaries of identity. These artists investigate the construction and destruction of identity, of what constitutes being through the use of their body, installations, books, interviews, videos, and paintings. The exhibition asks us to reflect on how, what, and why we are taking matters into our own hands through the works of artists who mobilize, respond, expose, heal, and rebuild together. Often, it is artists that lead efforts to address the needs of their community when the system, the government, and aid fall short.

At the opening reception on Wednesday, November 15, 6-9pm, Proyectos Sabrosos / Sabroso Projects invite visitors to join the *Decolonized Republic* by registering and receiving a passport with a new visual identity for the post-resistance in Puerto Rico. Based on the island's current crisis, *Farmacia Dolores'* objective is to elevate the conversation among the people of Puerto Rico towards a greater consensus, and more constructive, sovereign dialogue. In addition, posters will be sold with all proceeds going towards relief efforts in Puerto Rico.

Through Afro Latin rhythms and contemporary form, **Megan Curet** explores how bodies move within systems and how systems affect the moving body. Join us for a special dance workshop led by the artist on **Wednesday, November 29, 6-8pm.**

In **Elia Alba's** video *If I were a...*, the performance artist Nicolas Dumit Estevez, tries on three "bodysuits" that carry the distorted image of Alba's body—posing the body as a site of resistance, examination, and learning. The hyper-realist painting of **Firelei Báez** further underscores the precarious concept of race.

In **Carlos Martiel's** work, his body is the platform from which he dives deeper into how current conflicts and sociopolitical realities have been manifested, constructed, and transformed. In *mar sin orillas (sea without shores)*, our attention is drawn to the waves of immigration from Africa and the Middle East to Europe and the lives lost in the last decade. The piece proposes the idea of death as a form of arrival.

For **Lizania Cruz**, learning, honoring and sharing immigrant's stories is central to her work. As an extension of her project *We the News*, a platform that amplifies immigrants' unique stories, Cruz installs an interactive map where people can trace their immigrant route—inviting you to share your stories about being an immigrant or a first generation American. **Join us on December 1, 6pm to be a part of Cruz's sanctuary space led by the act of storytelling in efforts to empower and build community.**

In **Melissa Calderón's** and **Alicia Grullon's** work, photography is employed to document through diverse actions their bodies in unique contexts and locations that affect how we read, view and understand our bodies through history.

Taken from the artist's zine *Amigxs*, **Camilo Godoy's** photograph of two interwoven hands shows friends and lovers engaged in moments of love and lust. A self-portrait of the artist with three friends will be on view on a billboard on the southeast corner of 9th Avenue and 37th Street in Manhattan from November 27–December 24, 2017.

With a clever mix of needle work and imagery that seems to come out from a Mario Brothers video game, **Lulu (María Luisa) Verona** embroiders a delicate and imaginative portrait of hurricane María approaching the Puerto Rico—blurring the lines between real and imagined.

Jorge González and Chemi Rosado-Seijo have been working with the Puerto Rican community through different projects since before hurricane Maria, but with its arrival, the need to continue doing workshops became imminent. Among them, *Tejerapia* (an invented name that mixes 'to knit' with 'therapy') is a hybrid work of craft and the transformative power of healing, educating and building, the self and community. On display will be *Herramientas Generosas vol. 3 / Tratamientos para evitar la erradicación: objeto enigmático* a book, designed by Tiguer Corp for Betal Local and edited by Michy Marxuach in collaboration with Jorge González's project *Escuela de Oficios*.

Through field research and workshops with a group of professionals and community organizations, **Steve Maldonado Silvestrini** propels a fascinating proposal to reforest the island of Puerto Rico. The work conceived has been made accessible by an artist in the diaspora, **Amara Abdal Figueroa**. Both formally educated in architecture, the need to center the environment and share this information is imperative. Imagery and work presented within this collaboration is of pure self organization and need to disseminate.

In **Heryk Tomassini's** work, space and locale are critical. For this exhibition hammocks made out of blue tarp are hung at **Brook Park (141st Street and Brook Ave)** and one in the gallery. Books that are part of his larger project that seek to preserve and repurpose a series of stackable concrete units, inspired by Moshe Safdie's Habitat 67 will also be on display.

BronxArtSpace is open Wednesday thru Friday 12 to 6:30pm and Saturday 12 to 5pm.

BronxArtSpace is a non-profit gallery that promotes the innovative ideas of underrepresented and emerging artists and curators. Started in 2008 by Linda Cunningham and Mitsu Hadeishi, BronxArtSpace is dedicated to exhibiting the highest quality artwork from the Bronx and around the world. Our mission is to foster dialogue around contemporary local, national and global issues while advancing local arts education and opportunities.

The gallery is a sponsored project of Fractured Atlas, a non-profit arts service organization, and is generously supported by private donors and public funds from NYC Department of Cultural Affairs in Partnership with City Council, the New York State Council on the Arts, and the New Yankee Stadium Community Benefits Fund.

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