Waiting for the Idols to Fall
Curated by Rachel Weingeist and Orlando Hernández

The 8th Floor
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Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 11 - 5 pm;
Wednesday 12 - 6:30 pm and by appointment.

December 27, 2012, New York, NY—The 8th Floor, recently hailed by Arte por Excelencias as a “beacon in New York City for those who are interested in Cuba,” is pleased to announce the opening of Waiting for the Idols to Fall. On view January 11th - March 22nd 2013, the exhibition features works by established Cuban artists.

Cuban visual artists of the last few decades have fixed on a group of icons to represent their social, cultural, and human collective: the map of Cuba, the Cuban flag, royal palm trees, makeshift boats and rafts of emigration, El Morro, the Malecón, the ruins of Havana, José Martí, Che, La Caridad del Cobre, San Lázaro and the exoticized objects and ritualistic symbols of the Afro-Cuban religions of Palo Monte, Abakuá, Santería and Ifá, among others.

As a new era approaches, will Cuban cultural identity as depicted be an old-fashioned thing of the past? Waiting for the Idols to Fall considers how Cuban artists represent “lo cubano” without resorting to some variation on the same old icons. It’s too early to know in this transitional period if there will be a need to represent, reaffirm, or cling to something in order to continue being Cuban.

As the people of Cuba experience the largest systemic changes since the revolution—exit visas have been retracted, private enterprise has grown and the country’s leaders indicate long-awaited change—new icons will inevitably appear. But is there a need for idols at all?

An essay and publication, written by Orlando Hernández and translated by Ted Henken (Baruch College, CUNY) will accompany the exhibition.

A private reception will be held Thursday, January 10th from 6-8 pm. The 8th Floor will be open to the public Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 11 - 5 pm and Wednesday 12 - 6:30 pm; additional hours may be arranged by appointment for educational purposes. For press inquiries and image requests please contact Sarah Van Anden, at (646) 839-5908 or info@the8thfloor.org. Further information about location, hours, events and updates is available at www.the8thfloor.org.