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USF Contemporary Art Museum is pleased to present
Climate Change: Cuba/USA
January 12 – March 3, 2018

Climate Change: Cuba/USA invites Cuban and Cuban-American artists to reflect on the consequences of the recent fluctuations in the relationship between Cuba and the United States. Artists Glexis Novoa, Celia y Yuniór, Antonio Eligio Fernández "Tonel" and Javier Castro will produce new works, in sculpture, painting, drawing, installation and video, that consider the changes, or "no changes," that the political and diplomatic developments have wrought in their personal lives and in Cuban society.

Javier Castro presents *Cinco Cosas Básicas/Five Basic Things*, five richly chromatic and visually mesmerizing interrelated videos that reflect on basic aspects of human behavior, desires and struggles. The five-minute videos, filmed in Castro's marginal Old Havana neighborhood, will be arranged in the gallery for simultaneous viewing. Through single metaphorical images and repetitive actions, the works speak compellingly of life in Cuba while addressing issues of concern shared by individuals in contemporary societies.

Celia y Yuniór's structure *Varaentierra*, a variation on the rustic storm refuge common in rural Cuba, will be built on site and incorporates tobacco leaves and stems as well as historical research in the form of text. The work investigates the rise and fall of the cigar industry in Tampa/Ybor City over almost a century and a half, mirroring a similar process in Cuba: what was once a thriving, important industry that supported many thousands of families is now a tourist-oriented, boutique attraction.

Glexis Novoa proposes a multimedia installation that will examine the development of his work from his native Cuba to his life in the United States and finally to the recent reestablishment of his studio in Havana. Included are exquisite graphite drawings on reclaimed marble slabs that speak of the political power of architecture, colorful paintings that reflect on the new Cuban "wordscape" he encountered, and vintage flags and ephemera which focus on aspects of the Cuban Revolution and their influence on his art.



Glexis Novoa, *Hemingway*, 2014

Antonio Eligio Fernández "Tonel" presents multimedia installations with sculpture and drawing created in the artist-critic-curator-art historian's deceptively simple, and often satiric, style that enfolds a rigorous intellectual content. *Hacer arte no debería ser caro (Art Shouldn't be Expensive to Make)* discusses the massive infusion of capital invested in the global production of art and its effect on artistic values, while *(Elogio del) darwinismo/(In Praise of) Darwinism* comments on social Darwinism and the conquest of Cuban society by money and market forces.

Climate Change: Cuba/USA is curated by Noel Smith; organized by USF Contemporary Art Museum.

ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHIES

Javier Castro (Havana, Cuba, 1984) is a photographer and video installation artist. He received a degree from the Superior Institute of Art in Havana. Castro is the recipient of a 2015 Cisneros Fontanels Art Foundation grant. He has exhibited his work in museums and galleries around the world including Cuba, Mexico, Bolivia, Argentina, Austria, Italy and the United States. Castro's artworks can also be found in the collections of Daros-Latinoamerica, Mediatca Caixa Forum, and the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes in Havana. His work has been shown in the *Wild Noise/ Ruido Salvaje* exhibition at the Bronx Museum of the Arts and *Adiós Utopia* at the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis. He lives and works in Havana and Miami.

Celia y Yuniór is Celia González Álvarez (Havana, Cuba, 1985) and Yuniór Aguiar Perdomo (Havana, Cuba, 1984). They have been working as duo since 2004 when they met as students at the "San Alejandro" Fine Arts Academy in Havana. Their video installation projects focus on the organization of society and daily life. Celia y Yuniór's work has been featured in numerous exhibitions including *Cultura Autóctona*, Renier Quer Studio, Havana; *Six eyes and three tongues, looking out of the corner of the eye*, Arte Actual, Ecuador; *International Day*, new talents biennale, Cologne, Germany; *BITE THE BORDER*, Riad Denise Masson, Institute Facais, Marrakech, Morocco; *The artist between the individual and the context*, 56 Venice Biennale, Cuban Pavilion, Venice, Italy. They are the recipients of the International Cuban Art Award in the category of Young Cuban Artists of the year from The Howard and Patricia Farber Foundation. Celia y Yuniór live and work in Havana and Aberdeen, Scotland.

Glexis Novoa (Holguin, Cuba, 1964) lives and works between Miami, FL and Havana, Cuba. Novoa received a degree from the National School of Arts in 1984. He is a visual artist who works in a range of media and is best known for his graphite drawings and site-specific wall drawings. Novoa is a recipient of The Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant Program as well as Cisneros Fontanels Art Foundation grants. His work has been shown internationally in solo and group exhibitions including *Glexis Novoa*, David Castillo Gallery, Miami Beach; *Drones*, Saltworks Gallery, Atlanta; *Emptiness*, Lowe Art Museum, Coral Gables, Miami; *On the Horizon: Selections from the Jorge M. Pérez Cuban Art Collection*, Pérez Art Museum Miami; *The Chosen*, Jewish Museum, Miami; *MIA-BER*, Verein Berliner Künstler, Berlin; *Politics: I do not like it, but it likes me*, Center for Contemporary Art Laznia, Gdansk, Poland; *Columna infinita*, Galeria La Acacia, Havana. Novoa lives and works in Havana and Miami.

Tonel (Antonio Eligio Fernández) was born in Havana, Cuba in 1958. He is an artist, writer and curator and is known internationally for contributing to a revival of thought-provoking conceptual humor in Cuban art. Tonel earned an art history degree from the University of Havana in 1982. He is the recipient of a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship and a John S. Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship. His solo exhibitions include *The Journey (Talking Walls)*, Factoría Habana Center for Contemporary Art, Havana, Cuba and *Feeling the pull of gravity*, Chelsea Gallery, Miami. Tonel's artworks have been collected by Havana's Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes; Ludwig Forum für Internationale Kunst, Aachen, Germany; Van Reekum Museum, Apeldoorn, The Netherlands; Daros Collection, Zurich, Switzerland; University of Northumbria at Newcastle, Department of Fine Arts, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK; Department of Special Collections, Stanford University Libraries, among other institutions. He lives and works in Cuba and Canada.



Tonel, *Hacer arte no debería ser caro*, 2014. (Detail)

RELATED EVENTS

Climate Change: Cuba/USA Artist Symposium

January 12, 10am–12pm, USF Marshall Student Center, MSC2709

Climate Change artists Javier Castro, Yuniór Aguiar Perdomo of Celia y Yuniór, and Glexis Novoa will speak about their work. *Presented by CAM Club.*

Climate Change: Cuba/USA Artists Conversation

January 12, 6pm, USF School of Music Barness Recital Hall, MUS107

Climate Change artists Javier Castro, Yuniór Aguiar Perdomo of Celia y Yuniór, and Glexis Novoa participate in a panel conversation. Moderated by curator Noel Smith. *Event presented in memory of Janet G. Root. Program support provided by USF World.*

Climate Change: Cuba/USA Opening Reception

January 12, 7-9pm, USF Contemporary Art Museum

Meet the artists and curator of *Climate Change: Cuba/USA*.

Art Thursday: Curator's Tour

January 25, 6pm, USF Contemporary Art Museum

Noel Smith, CAM Curator of Latin American and Caribbean Art, leads a tour of *Climate Change: Cuba/USA*.

Art Thursday: Curious Crafts: Crossing the Florida Straits

February 8, 6pm, USF Contemporary Art Museum

USF History Professor Johnhenry González speaks on the Cuban Balseiros Crisis and its implications for the Cuban Diaspora. *Sponsored by the USF Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean (ISLAC).*

SYCOM: Music for Climate Change

February 16, 7-9pm, USF Contemporary Art Museum

Students from the USF School of Music's SYCOM program present a two-hour continuous concert of original compositions in response to *Climate Change: Cuba/USA*.

Art Thursday: ¡Salsa!

February 22, 6pm, USF Contemporary Art Museum

Join us to experience the music and dance of salsa, including an introduction to its history and dance lessons. *Presented by CAM Club.*

Danay Suarez Talk

February 27, 7pm, USF Marshall Student Center, MSC3707

A key figure in Cuba's underground hip-hop scene, vocalist Danay Suarez will present an inspiring lecture sharing her experience growing up in Cuba, and rise to fame in Latin music and beyond, with her socially conscious lyrics and message of hope and positive empowerment. To learn more about Danay Suarez, visit www.danaysuarez.com. *Presented by USF Cuban American Student Association (CASA). Program support provided by USF World.*



Danay Suarez

UACDC Prodigy Showcase w/ 1pm Danay Suarez Concert

March 3, 12-3pm, University Area CDC Community Center, 14013 North 22nd Street, Tampa, FL 33613

UACDC Prodigy Showcase with a 1pm collaborative performance featuring Danay Suarez with Prodigy students. *Program support provided by USF World.*

ABOUT USF CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM

USF Contemporary Art Museum (USFCAM) organizes and presents significant and investigative exhibitions of contemporary art from Florida, the United States and around the world. Serving as a teaching laboratory, USFCAM's curatorial and socially engaged initiatives and educational programs are designed to present the students, faculty, and community with current issues of contemporary art practice, and to explore the role of the arts in society. USFCAM publishes relevant catalogues, presents critically recognized traveling exhibitions and

commissions new projects by national and international artists. USFCAM maintains the university's art collection, comprising more than 5000 contemporary art works.

MUSEUM HOURS + ADMISSIONS

USFCAM Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Thurs 10am-8pm, Sat 1-4pm.

Closed Sunday and University holidays (Jan. 15)

Admission to the Museum is free; however, a USF parking permit (\$5.00 daily) or pay-per-space parking is required. Please visit our website cam.usf.edu for parking, directions, or more information on events associated with the exhibitions. Groups and organizations interested in tours should contact USFCAM to schedule at least two weeks in advance. Call (813) 974-4133 for additional information.

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