

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CUBAN VIRTUALITIES: NEW MEDIA ART FROM THE ISLAND

September 5-December 8, 2013

MEDFORD, MA - The Tufts University Art Gallery at the Shirley and Alex Aidekman Arts Center is proud to present ***Cuban Virtualities: New Media Art from the Island***, featuring new works by Mauricio Abad, Alexander Arrechea, Celia y Yuniór, Jairo Gutierrez, Ernesto Leal, Glenda León, Levi Orta, Rodolfo Peraza, Naivy Pérez, Susana Pilar Delahante Matienzo, and José Rolando Rivera, on view from September 5 through December 8, 2013. The exhibition will be held in the Koppelman Gallery and Remis Sculpture Court with additional works sited around the Somerville/Medford campus, including the Latino Center.

A scarcity of resources coupled with the intellectual pursuits of a highly educated population has dramatically shaped Cuban new media art made over the past 10 years. The effects of such limited access to digital technologies and the Internet on the island – compounded by a situation of extreme geographic, political, and economic isolation – has necessitated an array of creative solutions from a generation of artists born largely during the 1970s and 1980s.

As co-curator Liz Munsell (A05) notes: “Despite obvious challenges, or perhaps in part because of them, the current generation of Cuban artists is creating work that repurposes, reinterprets, hacks, cracks, and deconstructs technologies developed in or by the United States. The ten artists included use technological supports and global communications tools as appropriated elements in their work to comment on the production, distribution and diverse application of digital technologies throughout the world, as well as the local context in which they are re-interpreted in Cuba.”

Works by Abad, Arrechea, Celia y Yuniór, Gutierrez, Leal, León, Orta, Peraza, Pérez, Matienzo, and Rivera included in ***Cuban Virtualities*** examine the unique applications of digital technologies in Cuban art through video installations, net art, performance documentation, and interactive media.

Visitors can explore ***Cuban Virtualities*** in greater depth using our *Museum Without Walls* app. Supplementing the curatorial text, *Museum Without*



Walls places these works in the context of Cuba today addressing the subjects of technology in Cuba, daily life, Cubanidad, politics, and Cuban Voices. The app explores questions such as: What does it mean to create a website in a country where most people have no internet access? Or to accumulate digital currency on an island where food is still distributed via ration cards? Using the digital platform of *Museum Without Walls* to explore these digital artworks in **Cuban Virtualities** creates an immersive experience for visitors. Additionally, the app will help visitors locate works from **Cuban Virtualities** that are sited outside of the Gallery. Visit <http://tuftsart.toursphere.com/cubanvirtualities> or look for signage.

This exhibition is on view concurrently with the related exhibition, *Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons: My Mother Told Me*.



Cuban Virtualities is co-curated by Liz Munsell and Rewell Altunaga and is the first exhibition of Cuban new media art held outside of Cuba. Join us for a curatorial introduction to the exhibition on Tuesday, September 10 at 7pm with Liz Munsell. On Thursday, November 7 at 5:00 pm Liz Munsell with moderate a panel discussion, Cuban Art in Political Perspective.

PUBLIC EVENTS:

Opening Reception

Tuesday, September 10, 5:30-8:00pm

Curatorial introduction to the exhibition with co-curator Liz Munsell at 7:00pm

Parent's Weekend, Introduction to the Fall Exhibitions

with Amy I. Schlegel, Director of Galleries and Collections

Friday, October 4, 11:00 am

Panel Discussion: Cuban Art in Political Perspective

moderated by co-curator Liz Munsell

Thursday, November 7, 5:00-7:00pm

Remis Sculpture Court, Aidekman Arts Center

GALLERY HOURS:

Tuesday-Sunday 11am-5pm

Thursdays 11am-8pm

Closed for Thanksgiving break

Saturday, November 23 to Monday, December 2

The Tufts University Art Gallery is fully accessible and admission is free.
Suggested donation: \$3.

GALLERY CONTACTS:

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