



New Orleans
251658240 Museum of Art

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NOMA celebrates ¡*Sí Cuba!*

**Museum participates in a citywide influx of
Cuban culture with two Cuban-themed exhibitions**

[Hi-res images available upon request.]

NEW ORLEANS, La. (December 11, 2009) — The New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA) is proud to participate in “¡*Sí Cuba!*” a major citywide presentation of arts, music, and culture related to Cuba taking place in New Orleans January through April 2010. ¡*Sí Cuba!* is a collaborative venture between museums, universities, galleries, and other arts organizations in New Orleans, co-organized by NOMA, Newcomb Art Gallery, and the Stone Center for Latin American Studies at Tulane University.

NOMA’s participation in ¡*Sí Cuba!* includes two exhibitions: ***Luis Cruz Azaceta: Swimming to Havana***, a solo exhibition of paintings and ***Polaridad Complementaria: Recent Works from Cuba***, a traveling show organized by the Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Wifredo Lam, Havana. *Polaridad Complementaria* will be co-presented at the New Orleans Museum of Art and the Newcomb Art Gallery at Tulane University.

The solo exhibition ***Luis Cruz Azaceta: Swimming to Havana*** will feature a suite of new paintings, all from 2009. The phrase “Swimming to Havana” proposes the impossible as no unassisted human is capable of traversing ninety miles across the Caribbean Sea from Florida to Cuba. Yet it is a journey said to have taken place countless of times in the minds of Cubans wishing to reach the United States, and Cuban immigrants dreaming of returning home. In his suite of new paintings, Azaceta invites viewers to undertake their own imaginative journeys through his imagery. These paintings explore the idea of “crossing over” in myriad ways: between abstraction and figuration, between geometric and organic forms, between Cuban and American culture, and between the historically linked cities of New Orleans and Havana.

Luis Cruz Azaceta: Swimming to Havana is organized by Miranda Lash, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art. The exhibition will be on view in the Great Hall from December 18, 2009 through March 28, 2010.

About the Artist:

Born in Havana, Cuba in 1942, Luis Cruz Azaceta immigrated to New York at age eighteen. Since 1992, he has lived in New Orleans. Azaceta's work has been exhibited at major museums including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, the Museum Of Modern Art, New York, and the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C. He is the recipient of many grants including the Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Grant, and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York Foundation for the Arts.

Polaridad Complementaria: Recent Works from Cuba is a major group exhibition, presented jointly at the New Orleans Museum of Art and the Newcomb Art Gallery. **On view from January 16 through March 14, 2010**, the exhibition offers audiences the opportunity to become acquainted with Cuba's current artistic production. The participants are artists who have attained international acknowledgement. All have exhibited in Europe and Latin America and several in the United States. The artists presented at NOMA will include Abel Barroso, Luis Enrique Camejo, Ricardo Elías, Douglas Pérez, and Ludmila Velasco and Nelson Arellano.

Polaridad Complementaria: Recent Works from Cuba was developed by the **Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Wifredo Lam**, Havana, in collaboration with the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs and toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC. The exhibition was funded in part by Maybank Industries, Charleston, SC. *Polaridad Complementaria* is curated by **Jorge Fernandez Torres**, vice-director of the Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Wifredo Lam and curator of the Havana Biennial and **Margarita Sánchez Prieto**, curator, researcher and art critic at Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Wifredo Lam.

Related Programs

All programs are free and open to the public.

January 16

- **Opening and *copa de champaña*, 5 – 6 pm, The Latin American Library, Tulane University**
- ***Polaridad Complementaria* opening reception, 5:30 – 8:00 pm, New Orleans Museum of Art and 6:00 – 9:00 pm, Newcomb Art Gallery**

January 28 - 29

“Collecting Cuban Art,” a symposium hosted by the Newcomb Art Gallery, New Orleans Museum of Art, Cuban and Caribbean Studies Institute, and Tulane Center for Scholars:

Thursday, January 28

Keynote address by Cuban-born author, artist, curator, and president of the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Commission, Adolfo V. Nodal followed by a walk-through of the galleries, **6 pm, Stern Auditorium, New Orleans Museum of Art**

Friday, January 29

- **Lecture** by contemporary Cuban artist Tonel (Antonio Eligio Fernández Rodríguez) on recent Cuban art, **2 pm, Freeman Auditorium, Woldenberg Art Center, Tulane University**
- **Panel** with speakers Adolfo V. Nodal, Ricardo Viera, Holly Block, Sandy Levinson, Dan Cameron, and artist Tonel, **3 - 5 pm, Freeman Auditorium, Woldenberg Art Center, Tulane University**

February 3

"Cuba - Still an Island?" a lecture on Cuban art and globalization by Miranda Lash, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, **6 - 8 pm, Freeman Auditorium, Woldenberg Art Center, Tulane University**

February 24

Lecture on Luiz Cruz Azaceta by Alejandro Anreus, Professor of Art History, William Patterson University, New Jersey, **6 - 8 pm, Freeman Auditorium, Woldenberg Art Center, Tulane University**

Other ¡Sí Cuba! Exhibitions:

(Official ¡Sí Cuba! Website: <http://www.sicubaneworleans.com>)

Antenna Gallery

Cuba, Now! featuring the photography of Richard Flemming & a film by William Sabourin O'Reilly

Opening: January 9, 2010: 6 - 9 p.m.

Arthur Roger Gallery

Luis Cruz Azaceta

January 9 - February 27

Heriard-Cimino Gallery
Fragment of Journeys by José Bedia
January 10 - March 3

Historic New Orleans Collection
Louisiana and Cuba: Multiple Perspectives
January 19 - April 17

Jonathan Ferrara Gallery
Inside/Outside by Angel Delgado
January 2 - February 17

The Latin American Library, Tulane University
See Cuba: A Century of Images from the Latin American Library, 1859-1959
January 16 - February 14

LeMieux Galleries
Cuba in the 1930s by Paul Ninas
January 9 - 30

Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, Mahalia Jackson Theatre
Fiesta Sinfonica
Cuban Grammy Award Winning Classical and Jazz Musician, Paquite D’Rivera
March 6: Curtain is at 8 p.m.

Newcomb Art Gallery, Tulane University
Polaridad Complementaria: Recent Works from Cuba
January 16 - March 14

New Orleans Museum of Art
Luis Cruz Azaceta: Swimming to Havana
December 18 - March 28
Polaridad Complementaria: Recent Works from Cuba
January 16 - March 14

Ogden Museum of Southern Art
A site-specific installation by José Bedia
Mario Petrirena: *Soul House*
Jorge Otero: *Unrestored Miami*
January 14 - April 11


Taylor Bercier Fine Art Gallery
Soliloquy by Carlos Estevéz
January 7 - March 7

About NOMA and the Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden

The New Orleans Museum of Art, founded in 1910 by Isaac Delgado, houses more than 30,000 art objects encompassing 4,000 years of world art. Works from the permanent collection, along with continuously changing temporary exhibitions, are on view in the Museum's 46 galleries Wednesdays from noon to 8 p.m. and Thursdays to Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission to the New Orleans Museum of Art: Louisiana residents with valid photo identification: Adults, \$8; Seniors (65 and up), \$7.50; Children 3-17, \$5; Children under 3, Free. Out-of-state visitors: Adults, \$16; Seniors (65 and up), \$15; Children 3-17, \$10; Children under 3, Free. Discounted admission for Louisiana residents is made possible through the generosity of The Helis Foundation.

The New Orleans Museum of Art and the Besthoff Sculpture Garden are fully accessible to handicapped visitors and wheelchairs are available from the front desk. **Please note the Sculpture Garden is closed for renovation until early 2010.** For more information, call (504) 658-4100 or visit www.noma.org.

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