



New Orleans  
Museum of Art

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NEWCOMB  
ART GALLERY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Polaridad Complementaria: Recent Works from Cuba***

**INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED CONTEMPORARY CUBAN ARTISTS IN  
EXHIBITION TO TRAVEL TO NORTH AMERICA**

[High-res images of the artists and/or work from the exhibition are available upon request.]

**NEW ORLEANS, La. (January 9, 2010)** — The New Orleans Museum of Art and Tulane University's Newcomb Art Gallery are pleased to announce *Polaridad Complementaria: Recent Works from Cuba*, an exhibition that introduces North America to a new generation of influential artists from Cuba. *Polaridad Complementaria* is on view at both Tulane's Newcomb Art Gallery and the New Orleans Museum of Art **January 16** through **March 14**.

The exhibitions are part of **¡Si Cuba!**, a major citywide presentation of arts, music and culture related to Cuba, taking place in New Orleans January through April 2010. For all **¡Si Cuba!** events visit: [www.sicubaneworleans.com](http://www.sicubaneworleans.com).

*Polaridad Complementaria* offers audiences the opportunity to become acquainted with Cuba's current and upcoming artistic talent. Developed by the Centro de Arte Contemporaneo Wifredo Lam, Havana, the show is comprised of more than 50 works of painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, video and installation art that provide a sense of the serious aesthetic and conceptual concerns that characterize the island's art today.

The 27 artists presented are mainly young artists who have attained international recognition. Many have taken part in fairs and biennials abroad and all have exhibited in Europe or Latin America and were featured in the 2009 Havana Biennial. Several artists have exhibited in the United States, including René Peña, Abel Barroso, Aimeé García, Yoan Capote and Roberto Fabelo.

Diverse in medium and ideology, the featured artists understand the power of their art to address a wide range of social issues. Curator Margarita Sánchez pays particular attention to the works that illustrate the artists' capacity to connect the local reality to global concerns and universal human issues.

Often compared to American photographer Robert Mapplethorpe, René Peña explores the relationship between individuals within society and the struggle for their own identity. Abel Barroso carves three-dimensional pieces using wood and various printing methods to create a conversation about technology and the third-world.

From Zulueta, Cuba, Duvier del Dago takes it one step further combining drawing with handmade 3D design examining the unattainable, whether material or ideal. Other artists include Juan Carlos Alom, Lidzie Alvisa, Luis Enrique Camejo, Ricard Elías, Adonis Flores, Aimée García, Glenda León, Douglas Pérez, Sandra Ramos, Fernando Rodríguez, Ángel Ramírez, René Francisco Rodríguez Olazábal, Lázaro Saavedra, Ludmila Velasco, Nelson Arellano, and Reinerio Tamayo. From simplistic to intricately fabricated, the works created by these artists present a narrative of Cuba today.

**Margarita Sánchez Prieto** is curator, researcher and art critic at Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Wifredo Lam in Havana and recipient of the National Prize of Curatorship at the 2000 Havana Biennial. She has curated various exhibitions and lectured extensively on Cuban and Latin American art throughout South America, Europe and Canada. Her work has been published in various art magazines, and she is the author of the anthology *An Outlook of Latin American Art in the Decade of 1980*.

Vice-director of the Wifredo Lam Contemporary Art Center and curator and art critic of the Havana Biennial, **Jorge Fernandez Torres** has curated over 15 major exhibitions in Cuba, Spain, Central, and South America. He was a member of the Commission for Cuban Cultural Development of UNESCO in 1997 and on the Advisory Council for the Arts of the National Library of Cuba in 2000 and 2001 as well as Vice Rector of the Higher Institute of Arts in Havana for the past ten years. He is the author of several essays appearing in catalogues of Cuban art, is a professor of contemporary art at the Higher Institute of Arts (ISA), and has lectured all over the world.

*Polaridad Complementaria: Recent Works from Cuba* was developed by the **Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Wifredo Lam**, Havana and toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC. Scheduled tour dates for *Polaridad Complementaria: Recent Works from Cuba* are available at [www.artsandartists.org](http://www.artsandartists.org).

**Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Wifredo Lam** is dedicated to the promotion of both contemporary Cuban art and the art of the countries of the so-called Third World. Its main purpose is organizing the Havana Biennial. The Center also promotes and investigates the work of the vanguard master Wifredo Lam as well as the current artistic production of South American countries.

**International Arts & Artists** in Washington, DC, is a non-profit arts service organization dedicated to increasing cross-cultural understanding and exposure to the

arts internationally, through exhibitions, programs and services to artists, arts institutions and the public. Visit [www.artsandartists.org](http://www.artsandartists.org). For more information, please contact: Amisha Motipara at (202)338.0680 or [amisham@artsandartists.org](mailto:amisham@artsandartists.org).

## **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**

### **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 renovations.** For more information, call (504) 658-4100 or visit [www.noma.org](http://www.noma.org).

### **About the Newcomb Art Gallery**

The Newcomb Art Gallery is dedicated to enriching the cultural and intellectual life of the Tulane University and New Orleans communities and to sustaining the creative spirit of Newcomb. Free and open to public, the gallery is located in the Woldenberg Art Center on the Tulane University uptown campus. Hours are Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, Wednesday from 10:00 to 8:00 pm, and on weekends from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. For more information about the gallery, please visit [www.newcombartgallery.tulane.edu](http://www.newcombartgallery.tulane.edu).

