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Latin Artist Panel Discussion

Cuban Research Institute, Florida International University

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FROST ART MUSEUM

The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum



Latino Artist Panel Discussion

Wednesday, May 14, 2014 | 4pm

Join us for a panel discussion among these three prominent Miami-based artists included in the Frost Art Museum's current exhibition, *Our America: The Latino Presence in American Art*. The panel, to be moderated by Frost Art Museum Director Dr. Carol Damian, will provide each artist an opportunity to share how their careers developed and what inspires their artwork, and to give their perspectives on the state of Latino art in America today.

María Martínez-Cañas | Born Havana, Cuba 1960

Born in Cuba, raised in Puerto Rico, and now living in Miami, Martínez-Cañas assembles the pieces of her multifaceted identity into a totem by using a complex photographic process. She draws cubist patterns and abstracted natural forms on large-scale negatives, incorporates images drawn from Cuban colonial maps and pre-Columbian art, and prints them in black-and-white. These hybrid forms announce her multiple cultural connections and recall the paintings of Cuban artist Wifredo Lam.



María Martínez-Cañas
Totem Negro XVI, 1992
Gelatin silver print
Smithsonian American Art Museum
Museum purchase through the
Smithsonian Institution Collections
Acquisition Program, 1997.68

María Brito | Born Havana, Cuba 1947

While preparing this installation, Brito remembered the well-known children's song called "El patio de mi casa (The Backyard of My House)." In Brito's backyard, nature struggles to survive the uprooting of migration, here symbolized by the constricting cradle, barren tree shadows, and cracked ground. Rain collects at the top of the wall and channels down into the sink, giving a tree sapling a chance to thrive. Brito's humble Cuban American kitchen is a site of remembrance, transformation, and growth.



María Brito, *El Patio de Mi Casa*
1990, Mixed media
Smithsonian American Art Museum
Museum purchase through the
Smithsonian Institution Collections
Acquisition Program, 1997.71a-g

Arturo Rodríguez | Born Ranchuelo, Cuba 1956

Rodríguez's unsettled picture was inspired by Italian artist Giorgione's *The Tempest* (about 1505), a puzzling painting that portrays a nude woman nursing a child under the watchful eye of a man, possibly a soldier. Like *The Tempest*, Rodríguez's painting gathers disparate elements and offers no clear narrative. Three figures stand, sit, or walk through an environment that lacks a stable ground, the emotional intensity evoking the uprootedness of exile or the upheaval of troubled times.



Arturo Rodríguez, *Sin Título*, from the series *La Tempesta*
1998, Oil on canvas
Smithsonian American Art Museum
Gift of Liza and Pedro J. Martinez-Fraga, 2013.18

The panel discussion is open to the public and free of charge.

The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum at
Florida International University
10975 SW 17th Street
Miami, Florida 33199
t: 305.348.2890 | w: thefrost.fiu.edu



Our America: The Latino Presence in American Art is organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Generous support for the exhibition has been provided by Altria Group, the Honorable Aida M. Alvarez; Judah Best, The James F. Dicke Family Endowment, Sheila Duignan and Mike Wilkins, Tania and Tom Evans, Friends of the National Museum of the American Latino, The Michael A. and the Honorable Marilyn Logsdon Mennello Endowment, Henry R. Muñoz III, Wells Fargo and Zions Bank. Additional significant support was provided by The Latino Initiatives Pool, administered by the Smithsonian Latino Center. Support for "Treasures to Go," the museum's traveling exhibition program, comes from The C.F. Foundation, Atlanta. Presented in Miami with the support of Wells Fargo.