



Introduction to María Elena Ortiz. 0:57 sec. Interview: Raymond Elman. Camera: Kimberly Urias. Videography: E. Fumero. Production: Brea Jones. Recorded: 10/31/2019, Pérez Art Museum Miami.

Art Curator María Elena Ortiz

By Elman + Urias + Fumero + Jones

MARÍA ELENA ORTIZ is curator at the Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), where she has curated *At the Crossroads: Critical Film and Video from the Caribbean* (2014), *Firelei Báez: Bloodlines* (2015), and *Beatriz Santiago Muñoz: A Universe of Fragile Mirrors* (upcoming). In 2015, she also curated *Video Islands* at the Anthology Film Archive, New York. From 2011 to 2013, Ortiz was the Curator of Contemporary Arts at the Sala de Arte Público Siqueiros in Mexico City, where she organized several projects including *Carlos Motta: Shapes of Freedom* and *Rita Ponce de León: David*. In 2012, she curated *Wherever You Roam* at the Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach. She has collaborated with international and national institutions such as New Langton Arts, San Francisco; *Teor/ética*, San Jose, Costa Rica; the Museum of Craft and Folk Art, San Francisco; and Tate Modern, London. Ortiz has contributed to writing platforms such as *Fluent~Collaborative*, *Curating Now*, and *Terremoto* magazine. In 2014, she was the recipient of the The Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros (CPPC) and Independent Curators International (ICI) Travel Award for Central America and the Caribbean.

— Art + Culture Projects

The videos below are organized by topic and run between 30 seconds and 3 minutes. Click on any video. You must be connected to the Internet to view the videos.

SERENDIPITY:

2:00 min



What was your earliest memory of art of any discipline?

VALUES FIRST-RATE EDUCATION:

1:06 min



Where did you go to school, and what did you learn that still informs you today?

OVERCOMES CHALLENGES TO SUCCEED:

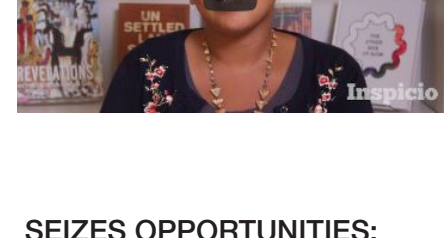
0:54 min



What was it like to go to school in Boston after having grown up in a tropical environment?

SEIZES OPPORTUNITIES:

1:51 min



Getting traction as a curator is very difficult. What was the arc of your career that so far has culminated in your prestigious position at PAMM?

SEIZES OPPORTUNITIES:

1:26 min



Did you interact with gallerist Nina Menocal when you were working in Mexico City?

SEIZES OPPORTUNITIES:

2:17 min



What were your stepping stones to obtain your current position at the Pérez Art Museum Miami?

OVERCOMES CHALLENGES TO SUCCEED:

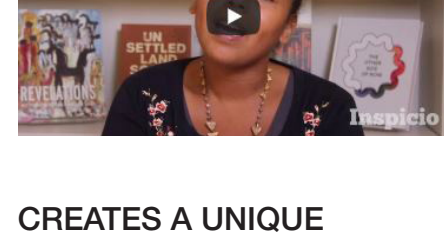
2:40 min



How has Miami's racial and ethnic diversity impacted you?

SELF-CONFIDENCE:

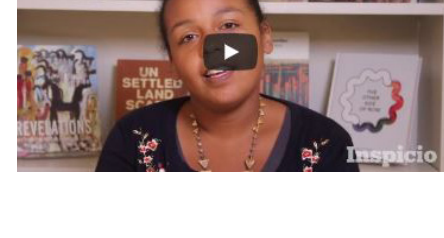
1:08 min



You have curated a lot exhibitions in a relatively short period of time. What are your talents that enable people to trust you and invest in your vision?

CREATES A UNIQUE PERSONAL BRAND:

2:31 min



Describe some of the exhibitions you curated at PAMM and which exhibitions felt most successful.

RESPECTS OTHERS POINTS OF VIEW:

0:31 min



How did Firelei Báez come to your attention?

COMMUNITY VALUES:

1:15 min



Where do you think Miami fits in the national and global art world?

VALUES FIRST-RATE EDUCATION:

2:15 min



What role do you think universities should play in the development of curators?

CRITICAL THINKING:

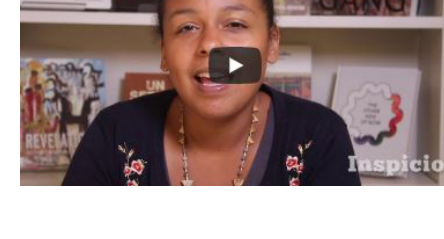
1:33 min



What are your criteria for taking on projects?

INSIGHT & INSPIRATION:

1:13 min



What is your favorite movie?

DEVELOP A VOICE:

0:45 min



What do you think are the biggest challenges for curators in Miami?