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# African Influences in Contemporary Cuban Art The Work of Manuel Mendive

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# Cuban Research Institute & Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center

Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs



## African Influences in Contemporary Cuban Art The Work of Manuel Mendive

Lecture by Bárbaro Martínez-Ruiz

Saturday, June 24, 2017 | 6:00 PM | Cernuda Arte | 3155 Ponce De Leon Blvd, Coral Gables

Manuel Mendive (b. 1944) was part of the first generation of Cuban artists to emerge from Cuba's national fine arts academy, San Alejandro, after 1959. Regarded as one of the foremost contemporary artists in Cuba and the Caribbean, Mendive incorporates visual elements rooted in West African religious and visual traditions into his painting. This lecture will look at the formative influences on Mendive's early work and will explore his mainstream academic training, the contextual impact of his local community, and the effect of his African consciousness, specifically the strands of Yoruba culture present in his Cuban heritage.

**Dr. Bárbaro Martínez-Ruiz** is Associate Professor of African and African Diaspora Art History and Head of the Department of Art History & Discourse of Art at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. He earned his Ph.D. and M.A. in Art History at Yale University and his B.A. in Art History at the University of Havana, Cuba. He has held teaching positions at Stanford University, the Rhode Island School of Design, and the Higher Institute of Art in Havana. He was recently appointed as a Leverhulme Visiting Professor at the University of Oxford. His books include *Engraving the World: Rupestric Art and Migration in Central Africa* (forthcoming in 2017) and *Kongo Graphic Writing and Other Narratives of the Sign* (2013). In 2012–13, Dr. Martínez-Ruiz curated the exhibit *Things that Cannot Be Seen Any Other Way: The Art of Manuel Mendive* at the Frost Art Museum in Miami.

**This event is free and open to the public, but registration is required.**

To register and for more information, please call (305) 348-1991 or write [crif@fiu.edu](mailto:crif@fiu.edu).

This lecture is part of LACC's Distinguished Lecture Speaker Series and sponsored by its Title VI Grant.



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