

For Immediate Release

Cuban America: An Empire State of Mind

Lehman College Art Gallery

February 4 – May 14, 2014

Reception: March 17th, 2014, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

The reception will include a special performance by artist Carmelita Tropicana.

Cuban America: An Empire State of Mind includes over 35 contemporary artists of Cuban descent, who have been raised in the States or in Cuba. In this groundbreaking exhibition, a myriad of themes are inspired by America: as the familiar homeland for second and third generation children of Cuban parents, or as the distant, imagined place that has historically empowered diverse ideologies on the Island. In a wide range of perspectives and styles, the United States can be both the backdrop, and the protagonist in diverse narratives. These views, rarely put together, portray multiple landscapes of the concept of empire, so easily associated with both countries, while the works in this exhibition add to the construction of a fresh, as well as complex, image of America: a Cuban America.

Social, cultural, and political discussions are brought to the table while old stereotypes associated with America or Cuba are revisited. In contrast, other artists explore everyday life, make abstractions, or focus on the materials themselves, influenced by nature or the environment. Some artists in the show use contemporary or historical images of American icons and symbols; others draw on remembrances of a distant Cuba that somehow defines them. Cities and their architecture find their way into the work along with imaginary locations.

Cuban America: An Empire State of Mind is co-curated by Yuneikys Villalonga and Susan Hoeltzel and includes a related Cuban video art program organized by guest curator Meyken Barreto. A series of special programs is conducted by guest curator Elvis Fuentes.

Artists in the show include, Alejandro Aguilera, Jairo Alfonso, Alexandre Arrechea, Tania Bruguera, María Magdalena Campos, Yoán Capote, Los Carpinteros, Luis Cruz Azaceta, Christian Curiel, Alessandra Expósito, Teresita Fernández, Carlos Garaicoa, Anthony Goicolea, María Elena González, Armando Guillen, Luis Mallo, María Martínez Cañas, Abelardo Morell, Gean Moreno & Ernesto Oroza, Glexis Novoa, Geandy Pavón, Emilio Pérez, Javier Piñón, Carlos Rodríguez Cárdenas, Andrés Serrano, & Katarina Wong

Video program: Juan Carlos Alom, Allora and Calzadilla, Humberto Díaz, Felipe Dulzaides, Luis Gárciga, Tony Labatt, Glenda León, and Ana Olema

RELATED EVENTS

- March 17, 2014, 6 - 8pm

Reception and Performance by artist Carmelita Tropicana

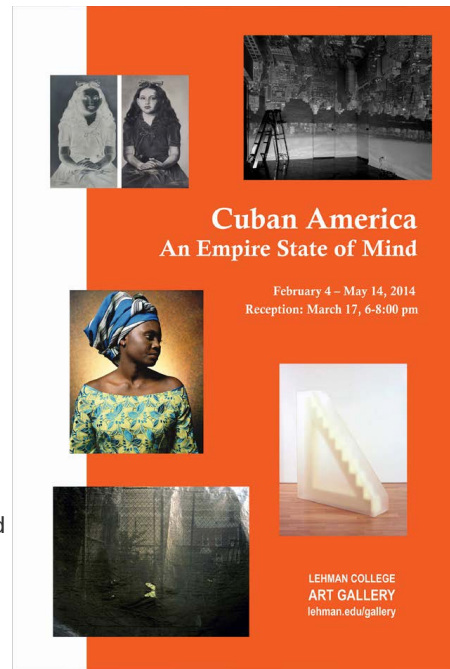
- March 18, 2014 at 6pm

In a Material World: Cubans Discuss Their America

A conversation with Ileana Fuentes and Edmundo Desnoes, led by Elvis Fuentes

-April 8, 2014 at 6 pm

Lecture: *Material Culture and Archive: Cuba and the United States*, by María Antonia Cabrera



Lecture: *Possible Destinies: Reflections on Cuban/American Video*, by curator Meyken Barreto

- **May 8, 2014 at 12:30pm**

Gallery talk: The City and the Humanities, gallery talk with three of the artists from the exhibition

This exhibition and events begins the gallery's 30th Anniversary Celebration