

La fiesta vigilada
Leandro Feal

I open, for the umpteenth time, *La fiesta vigilada* a book written by Antonio José Ponte in 2007, which has given its title to the second solo exhibition of Leandro Feal at Cibrián. One of my favorite part of the book refers to *P.M.* (1961) a short film by Sabá Cabrera Infante and Orlando Jiménez Leal which is, to this day, the most conflictive film in the history of Cuban cinema. This little thirteen-minute film “did not resort,” according to Antonio José Ponte, “to any pretext to deploy the party. The party was its entire plot (...) It constituted a potential filmic guerrilla.”

I have always believed, and my reading of Ponte’s book reinforces that feeling, that most of the work of **Leandro Feal** (Havana, 1986) could be read as an iteration of *P.M.* His photographs, haunted by marginalized and festive bodies where lightness and gravitation play together, can be seen as what author Ángeles Donoso Macaya called an “insubordination in photography”.

Since Feal’s early works, as for instance series *Tratando de vivir con swing* (2006–2008), thus far, the artist has focused on documenting communities and alternative spaces that, as a kind of cultural biotope, experiment and rethink post-communist aesthetics against totalitarianism and its state fictions.

In these political ecologies, music has always played a central role. But this relationship between music and images has rarely been as explicit in Feal’s work as it is today. The rhythm of the work *Ciudad celeste*, a black and white video installation in which photographs of La Havana are superimposed like an Eisensteinian *montage of attractions*, echoes another musical-based installation on display, *Fantasía cromática para una noche con el Chori*. In this new work, almost spiritual, Feal shows a bottlephone, activated during a performance on the opening day. *Fantasía cromática para una noche con el Chori* evokes the specter of Silvano Shueg, the “Chori” (1900–1974), *timbalero*, mythical showman of the Havana clubs and graffiti artist who stars in *P.M.*

The work *La fiesta vigilada*, captures through its one hundred small-format photographs unfolded like a score or a paper film, the mystery, the lightness and the grace of faces and bodies that are very familiar to me. They are, for the most part, friends and people close to Feal, almost all Cuban artists and intellectuals whose lives and works can be read as a form of resistance or fugue against the *basso continuo* of official discourse.

Not far from these photos, hanging on a wall as if in an arsenal, *Noticias del paleolítico* shows the batons used in Cuba by the Brigadas de Respuesta Rápida (BRR), literally the *Rapid Response Brigades*, and other parapolice groups, to repress and riddle peaceful demonstrations against the government. It is another form of rhythm, behind which lies arbitrary politics that violate fundamental rights.

Those batons, more than an abstract symbol, when seen up close, look more like curious pre-political fossils, a form of war technology, between ominous and ridiculous, prior to the invention of iron and citizenship. This work represents the tools of primitive communism, those that, according to certain Marxist manuals, effectively correspond to the *paleolithic*.

Michel Mendoza Viel
(New York City, 15 de marzo de 2023)























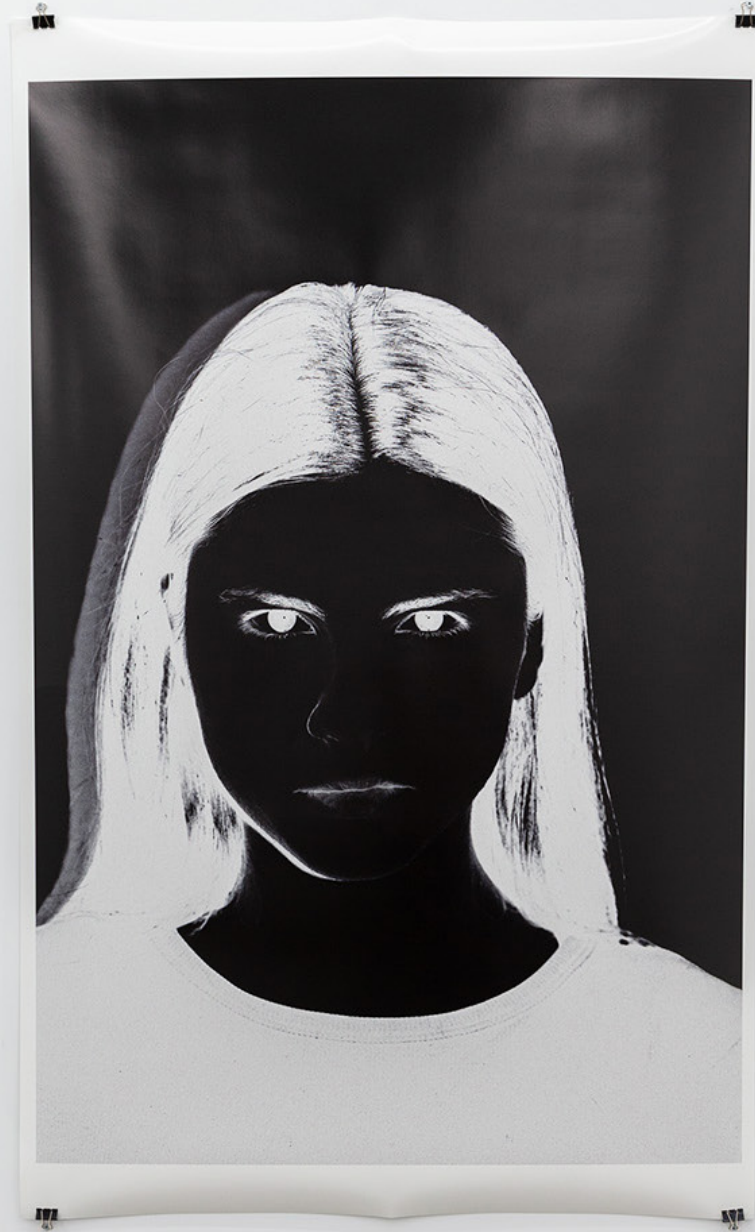












Lisa
2022
Ultrachrome imprint on Baryta paper 310 gr.
175 x 112 cm
ED 5 + 2 AP



La fiesta vigilada

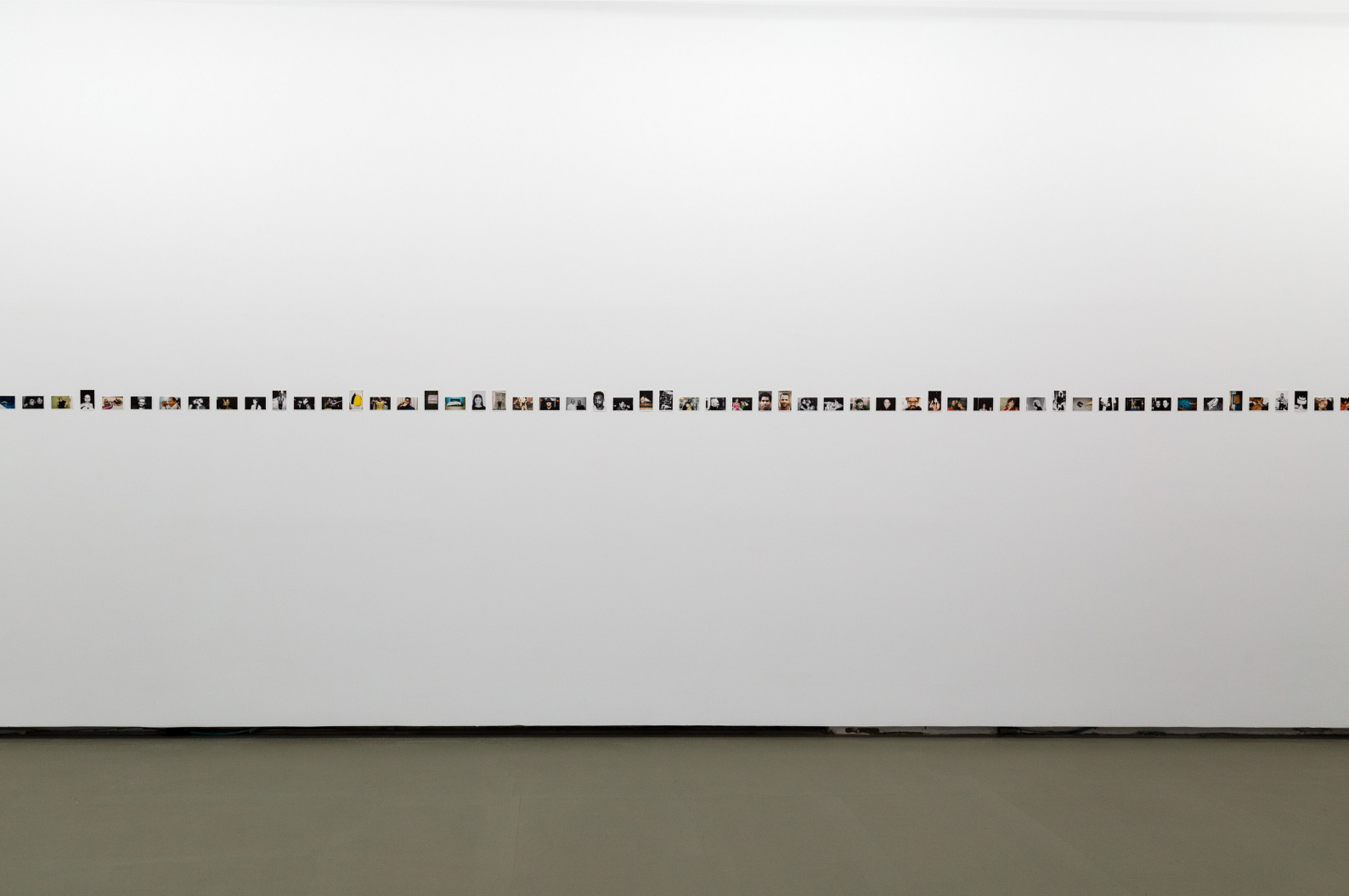
2023

Installation composed of 100 photographs.

Ultrachrome imprint on Baryta paper 310 gr.

10 x 7 cm or 7 x 10 cm each

ED 3 + 2 AP

















Fantasia cromática para una noche con el Chori

2023

21 glass bottles, water, wood table, two sets of percussive mallets.

112 x 200 x 82 cm



CIBRIÁN



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 a complex aromatic
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Braulio is an exceptional herbal bitter, made of full natural ingredients. Created in 1875 by the pharmacist Pelsoni, it was named after Mount Braulio in the Alps. The secret recipe is a unique blend of aromatic herbs, roots and berries. The traditional production method and ageing in oak barrels at the foot of the Stifser pass, grants this premium herbal bitter its refined aroma and inimitable taste. Enjoy Braulio neat or on the rocks!

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 (secondary seat-Zweitfirmensitz) BY/VON DA PELONI S.R.L., BORMIO VALTELLINA (SO) ITALY/ITALIEN
 BOTTLED/INGEFÜLLT IN CORSO VALPONE 119/144, CANALE (CN) ITALY/ITALIEN

AMARO - BITTER
 CONTAINS LICORICE - ENTHÄLT LAKRITZE

21% vol. LON/0008 06:16

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Ciudad celeste
2023
Video instalation.
Variable dimensions
ED 3 + 1 AP

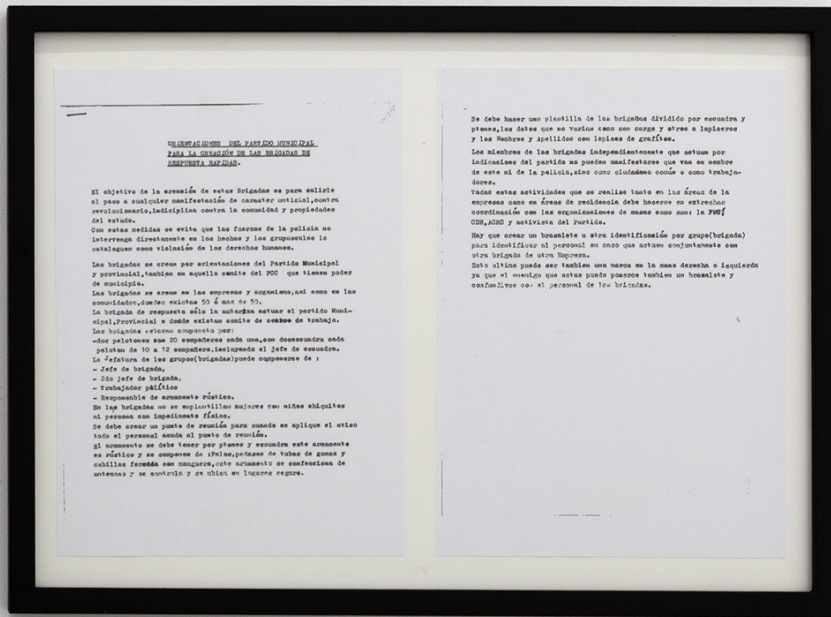


Noticias del paleolítico

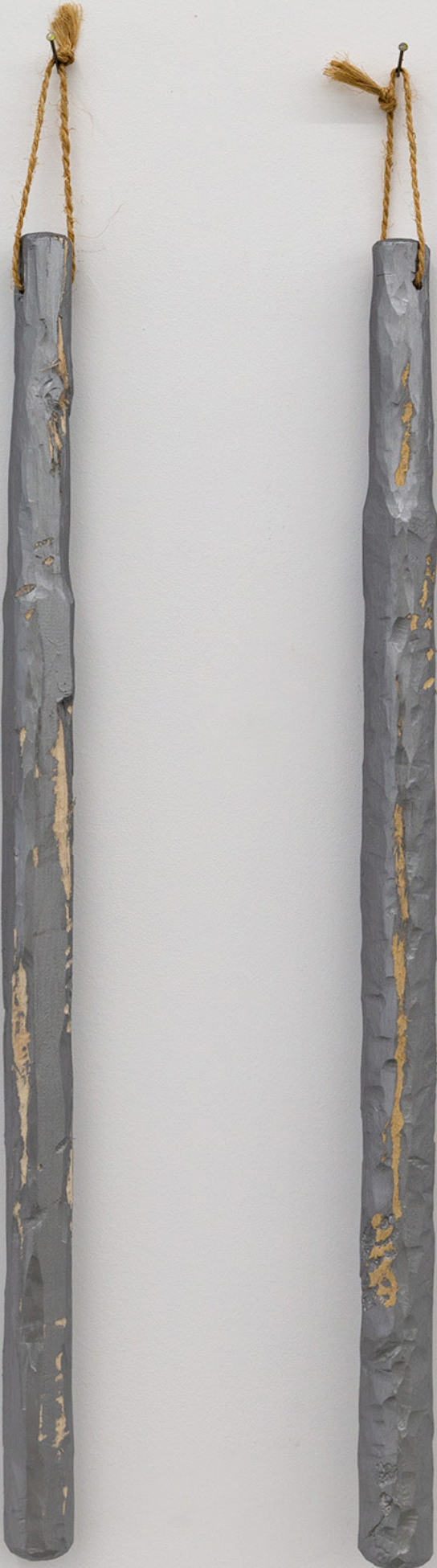
2023

Wood, silver acrylic paint, nails, jute rope, document.

Variable dimensions











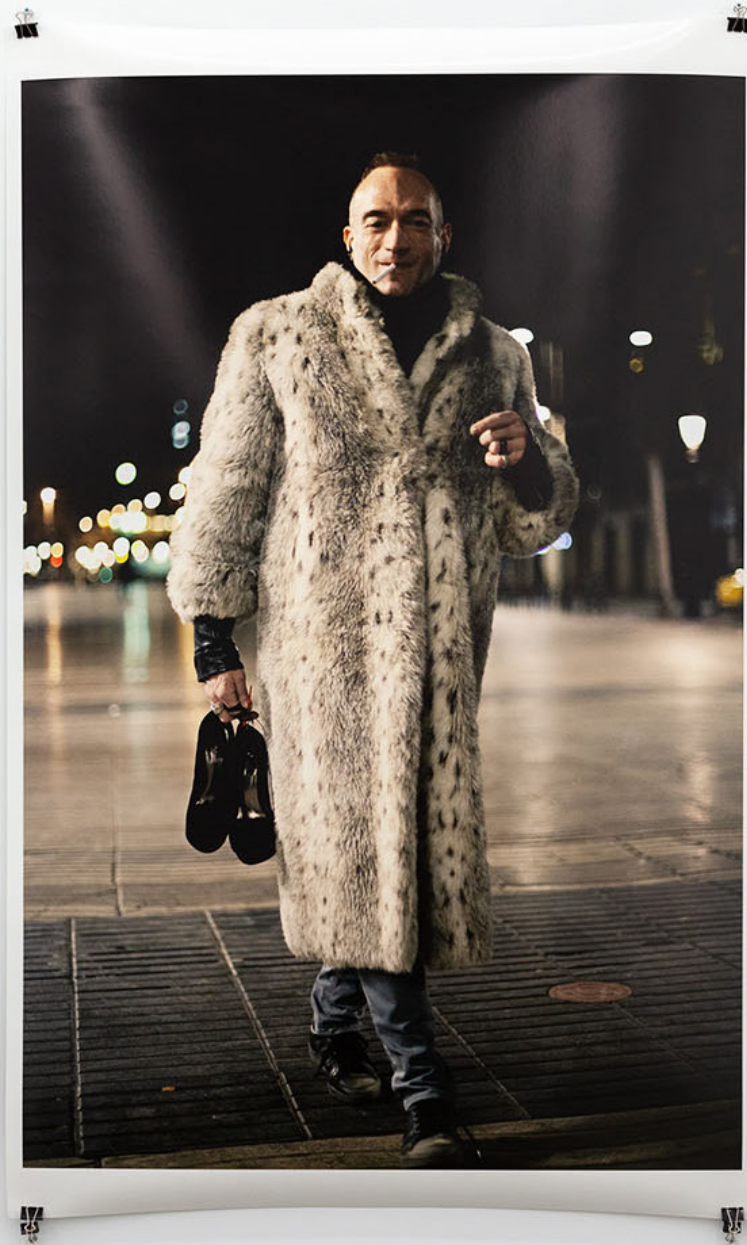
Berlín desde los cielos

2022

Ultrachrome imprint on Baryta paper 310 gr.

7 x 10 cm (unframed)

Ed. 5 + 2 AP



De la serie ¿Y allá qué hora es?

2015-2016

Ultrachrome imprint on Baryta paper 310 gr.

175 x 112 cm

Ed. 5 + 2 AP



Minota y Jose Mesías / La Habana

2022

Ultrachrome imprint on Baryta paper 310 gr.

7 x 10 cm (unframed)

Ed. 5 + 2 AP



Das hotel / Berlin

2022

Ultrachrome imprint on Baryta paper 310 gr.

10 x 7 cm (unframed)

Ed. 5 + 2 AP



Zapatos Juanita / La Habana

2022

Ultrachrome imprint on Baryta paper 310 gr.

7 x 10 cm (unframed)

Ed. 5 + 2 AP



Centro Habana

2022

Ultrachrome imprint on Baryta paper 310 gr.

7 x 10 cm (unframed)

Ed. 5 + 2 AP



Santa Mana

2022

Ultrachrome imprint on Baryta paper 310 gr.

7 x 10 cm (unframed)

Ed. 5 + 2 AP

CV**Leandro Feal** (La Havana, 1986)

2007-2008 Instituto Superior de Arte, Havana

2005-2007 Cátedra Arte de Conducta, dirigida por Tania Bruguera, (Instituto Superior de Arte), Havana

2002-2006 Academia Nacional de Bellas Artes San Alejandro, Havana

1999-2001 Centro Experimental José Antonio Díaz Peláez (23 y C)

Solo exhibitions

2023

Forthcoming, La fiesta vigilada, solo exhibition at Cibrián, San Sebastian, Spain

2022

Artgenève, solo booth with Cibrián. Geneva, Switzerland.

2021

La revolució dels artistes. Utopia 126, Barcelona

2019

Paris Photo, solo booth with Cibrián, Paris, FR

XIII Havana Biennial - El fotógrafo del precipicio

El intrusismo del inspector. Cibrián, San Sebastian, Spain

2018

ZONAMACO FOTO 2018, (Solo Show with Galería Servando, Havana, Cuba). Mexico City. Mexico.

Leandro Feal in conversation with Andreas Siegfried + Dr. Ziba Ardalan, Parasol Unit. Foundation for Contemporary Art. London. United Kingdom

Havana. Siegfried Contemporary. London, England.

MIA Photo Fair 2019, (Solo Show with Cibrián Gallery, San Sebastián, Spain), Milan, Italy.

2017

Yo no hablo con fotógrafos. Galería Servando, Havana, Cuba

Nadie lo sabe todo (with Taxio Ardanaz), Azkuna Zentroa. Bilbao, Spain

2016

Blow Up, Blow Up (with Joan Fontcuberta), El Apartamento. Havana, Cuba.

2015

Lugar común, lugar extraño. Bilbao Arte, Bilbao, España Vivir la fotografía sin vivir de ella. Luz y Oficios.

Centro Provincial de Artes Plásticas y Diseño, Havana, Cuba

2013

Donde nadie es exclusivo. Centro de Desarrollo de las Artes Visuales, Havana, Cuba

Group shows

2022

Contemporary Voices 2022, Plataforma2. Barcelona, Spain

Tout le poids d'une île, Musée des beaux-arts de Rennes, Centre d'Art Contemporain 40mcube, Centre d'Art Passerelle à Brest. Rennes, France

Sin autorización: Contemporary Cuban Art, Wallach Art Gallery. Columbia University. New York City, United States

Obsesión, La Galería by LastCrit. Barcelona, Spain

Giro Gráfico. Como en el muro la hiedra, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía. Madrid, Spain

On the horizon: Contemporary Cuban Art from the Pérez Art Museum Miami, Nashville Frits Museum. Nashville, USA

2021

Artissima Art Fair, (Stand Cibrián Gallery, San Sebastián, Spain). Torino, Italy
Viva la Devolución, Haba Gallery. Utopía 126. Barcelona, Spain
You may come full circle, Cibrián Gallery. San Sebastián, Spain
Objetario, Artfulcollecting (in collaboration with Galería El Apartamento). Miami, USA

2020

Transferencia Cultural. Una mirada desde la fotografía cubana, Haba Gallery. Utopía 126, Barcelona, Spain
Cara a Cara (with Antoine d'Agata and Alejandro González), Fondation Brownstone. Paris, France
Artissima Unplugged, Palazzo Madama. Torino, Italy
DA Z 2020 (Digital Arts Festival Zurich). Zurich, Switzerland
Arroz con Mango, Consell 81. Barcelona, Spain
Feria Internacional de Arte Contemporáneo ARCO Madrid 2020 (with El Apartamento, Havana, Cuba), IFEMA, Madrid, Spain.

Cada forma en el espacio es una forma de tiempo que se escapa (VIP Program Arco 2020), Dagoberto Rodríguez Studio, Madrid, Spain.

2019

Art Basel Miami Beach (with Mai 36 Galerie. Zurich, Switzerland), Miami, USA.
Del laberinto se sale por un costado, El Apartamento Gallery. Havana, Cuba.
ABUC. Eleven Cuban Artists. Mai 36 Galerie. Zurich, Switzerland.
This is Cuba. Documentary photography after Fidel. Royal Holloway University. London, UK.
De un fanático de Rockefeller a un discípulo de Kruschov (Historias contadas por artistas), XIII Havana Biennale, Havana, Cuba.
Illness has a colour, El Apartamento Gallery, XIII Havana Biennale, Havana, Cuba.
El circuito del arte cubano, El Apartamento gallery, XIII Havana Biennale, Havana, Cuba. ZONAMACO 2019, (Stand Cibrián Gallery, San Sebastián, Spain and Stand Galería Servando, Havana, Cuba), Mexico City. Mexico.

2018

Kochi-Muziris Biennale 2018, Kochi, India.
Untitled (Stand El Apartamento, Havana, Cuba), Miami Beach, United States. Artissima Art Fair, (Stand Galería Servando, Havana, Cuba) Turin, Italy.
Otro amanecer en el trópico - Contemporary Cuban artistic practices, Reinbeckhallen. Berlin. Germany
¿Cómo está el agua? y PASE, Galleria Continua. Havana. Cuba.
Going Away Closer, Spiral, Tokyo, Japan.
Ola Cuba, Lille3000, Lille, France.
Going Away Closer, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Wifredo Lam, Havana, Cuba. Feria Internacional de Arte Contemporáneo ARCO Madrid 2018 (with El Apartamento, Havana, Cuba), IFEMA, Madrid, Spain.

2017

La noche redimida, Estudio Figueroa-Vives y Embajada de Noruega en Cuba. Havana, Cuba. Atalaya, Galería Taller Gorría. Havana, Cuba.

2016

Nido sin árbol, Unión Nacional de Arquitectos e Ingenieros de la Construcción de Cuba (UNAIC)- Galería Continua. Havana, Cuba. La suspensión del deseo. Centro de Desarrollo de las Artes Visuales, Havana, Cuba
Hoy desde de los 80s. Casa de México, Havana, Cuba
La banalidad del mar. Museo de Arte Moderno, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
Cuba al cubo. Evolución por Fugaz, Callao, Peru

La Pala (a la corta o a la larga). Centro de Desarrollo de las Artes Visuales, Havana, Cuba

Open Studio. Otro puto estudio, Havana, Cuba

Tumbando. Evolución by Fugaz, Callao, Peru

Comercio de rescate. Galería Servando, La Habana, Cuba

Iconocracia. CAAM: Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno. Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain

2015

Colimadores - Cuba Im Blick. Kunsträume Michael Horbach Stiftung, Cologne, Germany Signos. Arte, industria y viceversa. Factoría Habana, Havana, Cuba

Devenir-animal, devenir-intenso, devenir-imperceptible. Fábrica de Arte Cubano, Havana, Cuba Iconocracia. Artium. Centro- Museo Vasco de Arte Contemporáneo, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain Pulso. Colateral 12da Bienal de La Habana, Galería L, Havana

Open Studio. Colateral 12da Bienal de La Habana, Sometimes Art Space, Havana, Cuba Campos de batalla. Studio 8 y Punctum Espacio, Havana, Cuba

Bodegón. Fábrica de Arte Cubano, Havana, Cuba

El juguete rabioso. Fucina des Artistas, Havana, Cuba

2014

Bice Bugatti Club. Villa Vertua, Milan, Italy

2013

DIY (Do It Yourself). Self Kitchen. Tokio, Japan

Politics: I do not like it but it likes me. Centre for Contemporary Art Laznia, Gdansk, Poland

2011

Retrospectiva de Raymaluz Art Gallery. Raymaluz Art Gallery, Madrid, Spain

2010

XXXI Bienal de Pontevedra. Pontevedra, Spain

2009

Reina Número 39. Open Studio. Programación paralela a ARCO`09, Madrid, Spain

2008

Estado de excepción. 10a Bienal de La Habana. Galería Habana, Havana, Cuba

Un ojo en la niebla. Sala Contemporánea de la Casa de las Américas, Havana, Cuba

Si una noche de invierno un viajero. Galería del Instituto Superior de Arte, Havana, Cuba

We are porno. Espacio Aglutinador, La Habana, Cuba Presentación personal. Fototeca de Cuba, Havana, Cuba

2007

Bueno, Bonito y Barato. Close Up, México D.F., México III Bienal Nacional de Fotografía Alfredo Sarabia in Memoriam, Pinar del Río,

Cuba

Impass. Facultad de Artes y Letras, Havana, Cuba

2006

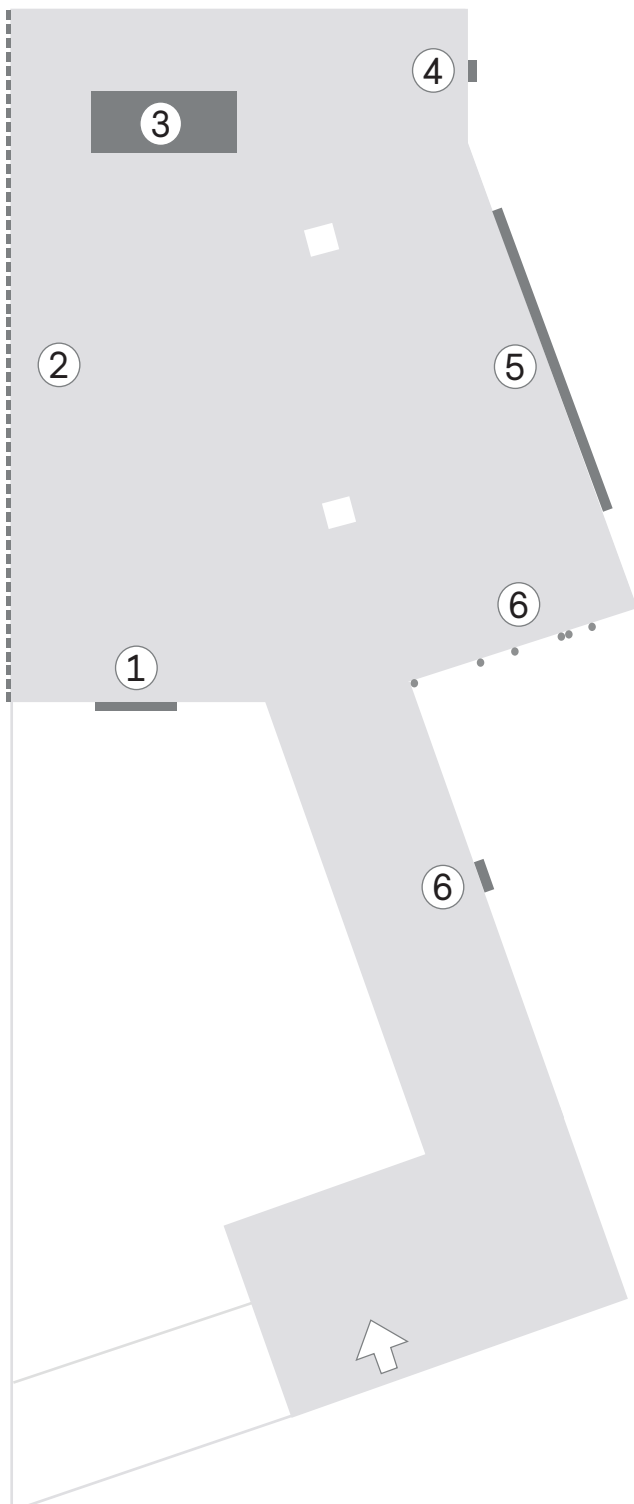
Bueno, Bonito y Barato. Casa particular, Havana, Cuba 9a Bienal de la Habana. Presentación de la Cátedra Arte de Conducta". Estudio de Tania Bruguera, Havana, Cuba

2005 Irracionalismo post-racional. Galería José Antonio Díaz Peláez. Academia de Bellas Artes San Alejandro, Havana, Cuba

Residencies

2016 Artista x Artista. Azkuna Zentroa, Bilbao, Spain

2015 New York Film Academy. Los Angeles – New York, USA



- 1 Lisa**
2022
Ultrachrome imprint on Baryta paper 310 gr.
175 x 112 cm
ED 5 + 2 AP
- 2 La fiesta vigilada**
2023
Installation composed of 100 photographs.
Ultrachrome imprint on Baryta paper 310 gr.
10 x 7 cm or 7 x 10 cm each
ED 3 + 2 AP
- 3 Fantasía cromática para una noche con el Chori**
2023
21 glass bottles, water, wood table, two sets of percussion mallets.
112 x 200 x 82 cm
- 4 Berlín desde los cielos**
2022
Ultrachrome imprint on Baryta paper 310 gr.
7 x 10 cm (unframed)
24.5 x 29.5 x 4.5 cm (framed)
Ed. 5 + 2 AP
- 5 Ciudad celeste**
2023
Video installation.
Variable dimensions
ED 3 + 1 AP
- 6 Noticias del paleolítico**
2023
Wood, silver acrylic paint, nails, jute rope, document.
Variable dimensions

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