

Miami in Focus



by Milagros Bello

This column covers the visual arts of Greater Miami and Southern Florida, highlighting the events and exhibitions that take place in the area, and providing exposure for its artists, museums and galleries. Our interest is to offer an analytic vision and contribute an esthetic profile of Miami's artistic scene.

The Miami museums, active and efficient, produce high-quality exhibitions. In June, the Miami Art Museum (MAM) inaugurated "Ultrabaroque: Aspects of Post-Latin American Art", coordinated by Cheryl Hartup, Assistant Curator of the MAM; the exhibition that came from the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, was curated by Elizabeth Armstrong and Victor Zamudio-Taylor.

It included the participation of 16 Latin American conceptual artists of the youngest generations: Miguel Calderón (Mexico), María Fernanda Cardoso (Colombia/Australia), Rochelle Costi (Brazil), Arturo Duolos (Chile), José Antonio Hernández-Diez (Venezuela/ Spain), Yisha Jusidman (Mexico), Inigo Manglano-Ovalle (Spain/ United States), Lía Mena Barreto (Brazil), Franco Mondini Ruiz (United States), Rubén Ortiz Torres (Mexico/ United States), Nuno Ramos (Brazil), Valeska Soares (Brazil/ United States), Einar and James De La Torre (Mexico/ United States), Meyer



Meyer Vaisman

Vaisman (Venezuela/United States/Spain), Adriana Varejao (Brazil). Zamudio-Taylor offered an inaugural conference, which included the participation of artists Yidshai Jusidman, Franco Mondini Ruiz and Valeska Soares.

Especially noteworthy among the exhibitors due to the strong impact of their proposals were: Miguel Calderón with "Employee of the Month", Rochelle Costi with "Rooms-São Paulo", María Fernanda Cardoso with "Cemetery-Vertical Garden", the "Untitled Turkeys" by Meyer Vaisman, "Untitled (12 wheels)" and "Kant 2000" by José Antonio Hernández Diez, and "Meat a la Taunay", by Adriana Varejao. Visiting this exhibition is a must. (Until September 1).

The Venezuelan artist Ani Villanueva's multimedia performance on "Sor Juana Ines de La Cruz", with an approximate duration of three consecutive hours (5pm to 8pm) will take place on July 18 at Showroom 1 of the MAM. Villanueva performs Sor Juana as a contemporary artist woman. She is dressed in a manly/feminine fashion, formal and informal; daring and contained. Villanueva performs the struggles of her life and her poetry, having as a background a soundtrack with a mixed baroque and techno music. On that same day, at 7:30 p.m., Milagros Bello will deliver a Gallery Talk on the exhibition.

From August 23 through October 20, the MAM will present an exhibition of the works of the renowned photographic portraitist Timothy Greenfield-Sanders, featuring 70 powerful representations of contemporary celebrities.

The same date marks the opening of New Work: Odili Donald Odita, featuring the works of this Nigerian multi-media artist, who will show exuberant installations, abstract paintings and conceptual objects combining a peculiar intercrossing of European, African and American cultures.



Jack Pierson

Three major exhibitions curated by the Museum Director Bonnie Clearwater continue on display at the Museum of Contemporary Art of Miami (MoCA) until July 7: "Salvador Dali: Dream of Venus", a review of which is included in this issue of *Arte al Día News*; Jack Pierson's "Regrets", which evinces an overwhelming power to deconstruct contemporary life, and Hernan Bass's "It's Supernatural", an installation set up in a completely dark room where visitors can discover, with the help of a torch, a life size hut reflecting rural poverty on the outside, and whose delirious techno interior is filled with cigarette butts and empty liquor bottles, although its occupants have only just arrived.

On the walls of the showroom, the precise light of the torch reveals homosexual seduction and sex in Bass's outstanding expressionist drawings.



Pablo Cano

Until June 2, Pablo Cano presented his original artistic marionettes, made from discarded objects, in an exhibition and performance, "The First Reunion", based on the poem "The Universe", by Robert Frost.

In this theatrical show, Cano merges a variety of artistic disciplines (sculpture, drama, music and performance) on the stage.

On July 20, the MoCA is inaugurating "Primal Screams and Songs", featuring works by Magdalena Abakanowicz, Dara Friedman, and Ursula van Rydingsvard, among others. The show will be on display until the end of September. On October 25, they will be presenting Yoko Ono. As for jazz, the Florida Philharmonic Woodwinds will be performing on September 20.

The creation of a new gallery circuit, the NoMI Galleries, which emerges in the proximity of The MoCA, along 125th Street in North Miami, a few blocks away from Biscayne Blvd., opposite to the Museum, constitutes a historic event. Galleries that are mostly avant-garde, and exhibit works by cutting-edge artists -Ambrosino Gallery, Kracer Gallery, Grapa Studio of Art, Javogue & Ingalls Fine Art, Leonard Tachmes Gallery, Roker Art Gallery, T Curtsnoc Fine Art and Inter Fine Art have agreed to implement on the last Friday each month, in conjunction with the MoCA and its outdoors Jazz concerto, the NoMI Gallery Walk (7-10pm).

A night of great artistic activity, lived up with wine and dinner at the neighboring cafes and restaurants: Luna Star Cafe, Chez Madame Johns, Biscayne Wine Merchant and Bistro, Burrito Grill Cafe, D & L Restaurant and Calabash, among others.

On April 26 - a historic date for the Cultural Miami - the first NoMI Gallery Walk was officially inaugurated with massive attendance by the public. Further information on exhibitions may be found in our Gallery Section.

From June 21 through August 18, 2002, The Art Museum of Florida International University presents prints and drawings by Richard Duncan that explore life and death, order and chaos.

Until August 11, The Cuban photographer Mario Algaze is presenting an exhibition at the Lowe Art Museum. The show features photographs in black and white imbued with a powerful, almost tactile realism, that capture the essence and echoes of the natural and human landscapes of Latin America.

Also until August 11, María Martínez Cañas will be present at the Museum of Art of Fort Lauderdale with an exhibition of Post-Modern photography, which does not emphasize reality but rather the semiotics of reality, by means of forceful signs and metaphors. An excellent show.

The Centro de Arte Español presented Antoni Miralda "Sabores y Lenguas: 13 ciudades", an artistic-anthropologic project that explores the culinary style of 13 cities in terms of identity and resistance to a globalized world.

A great human tongue was the central image in the works,

surrounded by hand-written captions and the most representative dishes of each city, among them, Miami (Congri, Ropa Vieja, Picadillo, Maduros), Caracas (Reina Pepiada, Hallaca, Pabellón Criollo); in fact, food as a creative obsession. (305-448-9677)

The Centro will also stage, from June 15 until July 26, the exhibition "Austral", photographs of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego with elaborate compositions by the Aragonese photographer Andrés Ferrer, in an unusually surprising landscape.



Antoni Miralda

At the Arts Center/South Florida (www.artcentersf.org), the excellent exhibition "The 4th Annual Altoids Curiously Strong Collection", arouses expectations. Do not forget to visit it, and also inquire about the Summer Classes offered by the center.

The Bass Museum continues with its Art Lab this summer (305-673-7530 ex.1004). Call, learn, and enjoy the experience.

The "Star Miles" office, owned by Dr. Mosquera, art patron and rigorous dentist, opened its doors to the arts with Charo Oquet and Rogelio Lopez Marin. Be on the lookout for the next inauguration. (305-264-3355)

The Latin American and Contemporary Art Auction of Sloans Auction House (305-447-0757) was held on June 5 at Coral Gables, with the iron perseverance of Ana Stella Scharzw and a magnificent catalogue.

Two important exhibitions of Latin American art will be open at the Boca Raton Museum of Art (561-392-2500) from September 10 through November 3: "Reality and Figuration: The Contemporary Latin American Art Presence" will feature artists of the stature of Guillermo Kuitca, Guillermo Conte, Jorge Tacla, Carlos Capelán, Luis Cruz Azaceta, Flavio García Andía, and José Bedía, among others; and "Passages: The Paintings of Arturo Rodriguez" will present the most recent work of this Cuban painter.

This summer at Coral Gables, do not miss these excellent exhibitions: "Venezuela 2002", featuring Jesus Villarreal, Evelyn Valdirio, Lenin Ovalles, Federico Vegas, Eugenio Espinoza, Nurit Birnbaum, Sylvia Riquezes, Cecilia Hetch; an excellent repertory of the Venezuelan production at Galería Medici (305-448-5537); Andrea Carreño, showing dislocated and mysterious interior landscapes at Elite Fine Art (448-3800); the mythical landscapes of Teresa Icaza in The Americas Collection (305-446-5578); the renowned Cuban master Cundo Bermúdez in an exhibition that spans his work from 1945 to the present, allowing us to witness his exploration of the Cubist world, and appreciate his lyrical palette, his ethnic characters, and his current works, imbued with "ethos", with flat tones, graceful lines and figures with dancing silhouettes. (Cernuda Arte, 305-461-1050)

In NoMi Circuit, special mention may be made of the Kracer Gallery (305-891-4530), with "Use-less Objects" by Ani Villanueva (www.synch.org/aivb) until July 29; at Grapa Studio of Art (305-981-2585). "From Arizonas to Caracas" (July 13-August 31).

In Design Districts galleries, it is mandatory to visit the excellent exhibition "Mirror Mirror" at Bernice Steinbaum (305-573-2700), from July 13 through August 24.

Also, attend FIAC 2002 in Paris (October 24-28), at the Porte de Versailles, convening 160 galleries from France and from around the world. (www.fiacc-online.com).

Miami June 27, 2002. ♦