

# Aesthetics & Values

AN EXHIBITION PRESENTED BY  
THE HONORS COLLEGE AT FIU

2015

The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum



A&V 2015 at the Center for Visual Communication. (Photograph by Barry Fellman © 2015 Center for Visual Communication. All Rights Reserved.)



The mission of the Honors College is to provide a transformative undergraduate education by.

- providing cutting-edge academic and co-curricular opportunities;
- mentoring and inspiring students to excel and flourish through advanced research, community engagement, international study, and cultural literacy;
- providing the tools to develop a coherent worldview through higher-order reasoning, intellectual curiosity, and ethical judgment; and
- fostering integrity, responsibility, and civility in tomorrow's leaders.

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April 15, 2015 - May 10, 2015

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Sponsored by the FIU Alumni Association, EnerPower, and FIU External Relations

Front Cover: Duval-Carrié. *The Deconstruction of Erzulie*, 2010. Video. Courtesy of the Artist.

Back Cover: Torres Llorca. *Casa Tomada*, 2012. Mixed Media. Courtesy of Juan Ruiz Gallery.

Catalog designed by Barbarita Ramos



Once again, the Honors College has the privilege of hosting the annual Aesthetics and Values Art Exhibition. Now in its ninth year, the exhibit continues to grow in size, stature, and—most importantly—educational value.

Of course, this outstanding program is, first and foremost, the product of an extraordinary academic enterprise. We are proud that it fulfills, above all, an educational purpose—not only for the students in the class, but just as crucially, for the students, faculty, staff, visitors, and artists who contemplate the works on display and share in dialogue with our student curators. After a number of years during which the show featured only artists new to the Exhibition, it is once again open to top artists who have been featured by A&V in earlier years, ensuring that our students work with those artists who best advance student learning as the show develops.

All this is in keeping with the Honors College's commitment to education in and about the arts, both through our courses and through our innovative HEARTS (Honors Education in the Arts) program. It is our goal to infuse an understanding of the arts throughout the Honors educational experience, producing young leaders who are culturally fluent and deeply educated, as well as prepared to take up productive and fulfilling careers.

I am extremely proud of this year's A&V class; their tireless professor, John Bailly; and the outstanding artists who have shared their time and talent with us. I hope you will agree that the Exhibition represents the best in higher education.

Lesley A. Northup  
Dean  
Honors College at Florida International University

“All in all, the creative act is not performed by the artist alone; the spectator brings the work in contact with the external world by deciphering and interpreting its inner qualification and thus adds his contribution to the creative act. This becomes even more obvious when posterity gives a final verdict and sometimes rehabilitates forgotten artists.” – Marcel Duchamp

Upon initial contact with John Bailly's Aesthetics & Values class, we did not envision that we would embark upon a journey of understanding the true importance of art and the powerful role it can play within society. From learning about artistic movements, such as Dada, that not only defied expectations that the world had for art but also ignored traditional aesthetics and intended to insult and provoke, we were taught to see art from a new perspective. These various Dada artists believed that art reflected life, and in life there is chance. At that time, spontaneity was understood as an outlet for the unconscious mind. Just as these artists were able to take a chance and be heard we, as FIU Honors College students, were encouraged to combine our multiple disciplines to take a chance in making this an art exhibition that would never be forgotten.

Essentially, the 2015 Aesthetics & Values exhibition was made possible by a group of thirty-eight students who met every week for two semesters to sell baked goods and books, design and make shirts, and most importantly choose nine artists to showcase in the ninth annual Aesthetics & Values Art Exhibition.

We are grateful to have a very supportive academic community, and we would sincerely like to thank the FIU Honors College, the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum, our generous sponsors FIU External Relations and the FIU Alumni Association, and the FIU student body.

Hendhi Agenor Finance  
 Romina Angelelli Digital Media Studies, Art  
 Romina Angelelli Digital Media Studies, Art  
 Nishita Aswani Interior Architecture  
 Teona Avaliani Political Science  
 Gregory Battle Electrical Engineering  
 Kaina Bellegarde Psychology  
 Rebecca Budhoo Biology, Psychology, Chemistry  
 Evan Burr Business Management  
 Emily Caproni Psychology  
 Marianne Chamorro Marketing, Psychology  
 Evelyn Dovale Marketing, International Business  
 Carmen Echavarria Anthropology, Sociology  
 Elise Francis Architecture  
 Jose Gregorio Martinez Psychology, Gender and Women's Studies  
 Bianca Gutierrez Communication Arts Global Media, Women's Studies  
 Daniel Haydar Marketing  
 Kyle Hirshon Electrical Engineering  
 Luisa Isla Art History Art

Viktoriya Justiz Event Management  
 Luis Latil International Business, Marketing  
 Krissie Lobon Biology, Psychology, Chemistry  
 Idelis Martinez Public Relations  
 Frances Melendez International Business, Management Information Systems  
 Daniela Molina Public Relations, Marketing  
 Jennifer Narvaez Biology  
 Joshua Ovadia Biology, Chemistry  
 Arelis Paredes Biology  
 George Pearson Photography  
 Kristine Perez Early Childhood Development  
 Sophia Perez-Heydrich Biology, Pre-Nursing  
 Daniel Samper Finance  
 Daniel Santos English, Religious Studies  
 Alexander Swan Economics  
 Moises Valcarcel-Gonzalez Interior Architecture  
 Roxana Vargas Biology  
 Rebecca Villalba Biology  
 Jonathan Williams Finance, Economics



Julie Davidow is a native of Miami. She spent her youth as an artistic child in South Miami, supported by her family and teachers, doodling with her grandfather and covering her desk in school with drawings. Originally planning a career in advertising and receiving a BA from the University of North Florida, she realized her true passion was for art after 10 years as a small business owner.

Davidow's work has been exhibited throughout the United States. She has kept a studio in the Fountainhead Studios for the last three years, where she works on paintings investigating bacteria and diseases, as well as a more recent turn to architecturally themed paintings. Her style is based on geometric emphasis and the use of sharp lines. To her, the canvas is as important as the paint, and she often folds the canvas to give a sense of texture and perspective. She considers perspective integral in an installation, often incorporating site-specific paintings on the surfaces around her pieces. Her work has evolved with small but distinct changes over time as she has experimented with the use of color and texture. Davidow remarks that "some things seem to happen really fast and then some things I just struggle with...I can get hung up on one line, one little mark...when I'm at that uncomfortable place, I almost feel like that's when there's something pivotal happening."

Living in Miami is something she considers a huge positive in her life. She finds the Miami art scene inspiring: "When, as an artist, you get really into the community, everybody is great and you see that a lot of exciting things are being done. People are really generous and close. There's a lot of support for artists." In 2007, she co-authored a book, *Miami Contemporary Artists*, showcasing the work of Miami artists.

Teona Avaliani  
Evan Burr  
Jose Martinez  
Daniel Samper



*Diagram #33*  
(*De Young Museum San Francisco/Herzog & de Meuron*), 2012  
Gesso, Acrylic, Latex Enamel, Interference Pigment,  
Chrome Paint on Canvas  
48 x 48 inches  
Courtesy of Artist



*Diagram #34*  
(*Museum of Modern Art Rio de Janeiro/Reidy*), 2012  
Gesso, Acrylic, Latex Enamel, Interference Pigment,  
Chrome Paint on Canvas  
48 x 48 inches  
Courtesy of Artist



Christian Duran is a Cuban-American artist born and raised in Hialeah. Upon graduating from New World School of the Arts High School, he obtained a Bachelor in Fine Arts degree at the Kansas City Art Institute. His work has been exhibited throughout Florida, and appeared in several publications, including 100 Southern Artists and Puertas a la Imaginación.

Duran's colorful vascular paintings are influenced by a love of science and anatomy. His career as a healthcare worker is a principal and continuing source of inspiration in his painting, as is a deep fascination with and knowledge of how the human body functions. At its core, Duran's work is an artistic visual expression seeking internalized aesthetic value, discovery, and resolution. In his work, there is a duality between self-reflection and discovering universal truths. Duran blurs the line between human and plant characteristics, working off the connection of the body and nature. This connection is evident particularly in his prominent use of vein and branch-like systems in his paintings. Duran's paintings are not mere anatomical studies, but express the human condition. The work is both spontaneous and highly articulate. It embodies both micro- and macrocosm, from the smallest human characteristics embedded within our consciousness, cells, and DNA, to issues as great and perplexing as our place in the world.

His work provides a study of both the physical and spiritual forces which drive us and all other living things. Beyond that, the work is about the singular human characteristic of self-awareness. For Duran, though we are a part of nature, we are uniquely both aware of and estranged from the natural world – a separation his work attempts to reconnect.

Bianca Gutierrez  
Luisa Isla  
Daniela Molina  
George Pearson



*Decay*, 2004  
Ink, Acrylic, Collage on Primed Wood  
12 x 12 inches  
Courtesy of the Artist



*Horns*, 2005  
Ink, Acrylic, Collage on Primed Wood  
12 x 12 inches  
Courtesy of the Artist



American painter and sculptor Edouard Duval-Carrié was born in Haiti in 1954.. “My art is always impacted by my surroundings,” he says. When he was young, his family immigrated to Puerto Rico from Port-au-Prince during the François Duvalier regime. He earned his Bachelor of Arts from Loyola College, Montréal, in 1978 and later attended the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts in Paris. Duval-Carrié lived in France for many years but currently resides in Miami.

His works have been exhibited in Europe and throughout the Americas in major museums and galleries. His extensive resume includes a substantial list of publications, as well as works featured in the permanent collections of prominent museums. His latest works, displayed at the new Perez Art Museum Miami, exploring how the Caribbean is historically portrayed as a fertile land with endless possibilities, regardless of the existing social and economic disparities. These works and others demonstrate his strong cultural ties while creating awareness of current issues. Duval-Carrié’s work often explores the history and politics of the Caribbean, and utilizes striking hues to emphasize a visual story. In 2014, Duval-Carrié was named a prestigious United States Artists Program Fellow.

Romina Angelelli  
Kaina Bellegarde  
Luis Latil  
Sophia Perez-Heydrich  
Rebecca Villalba



*The Deconstruction of Erzulie, 2010*  
Video  
Courtesy of the Artist



Aramis Gutierrez was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1975. His family moved to New York in 1980. He has also lived in Venezuela, where part of his family is from. He is also of Slavic descent. Art was something he always appreciated but did not really undertake until his teenage years. He received his Bachelor in Fine Arts from The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in 1998. After graduating, Aramis wanted to further his artistic ability, and he decided to move to Spain to study the more traditional artistic styles and methods of the Spanish masters. Gutierrez blended aspects of these newly learned methods with his own in order to create his unique style. His works have been featured in several galleries, including the Simon Gallery in Morristown, New Jersey, the Gavlak Gallery in Palm Beach, and the David Castillo Gallery in Miami, and have won awards for their creativity and originality.

Gutierrez currently lives in Miami and continues to work from his studio creating works for exhibitions. In his recent series of paintings, he explores the usage of soft colors like pink. According to Gutierrez, white can be seen as a representation of the White Guard and red represents Marxism, together creating pink. This clash between ideas is an example of the underlying themes present in Aramis' work.

"I see myself as a humanist. I hope that each viewer can see my work in their own way and appreciate it for their own reasons," says the artist.

Hendhi Agenor  
Gregory Battle  
Marianne Chamorro  
Evelyn Dovale  
Daniel Santos



*Cold New River That Led Out to the Sea, 2013*  
Oil on Canvas  
14 x 18 inches  
Courtesy of the Artist



*The Reward of Faith is to See What You Believe, 2013*  
Oil on Canvas  
8 x 10 inches  
Courtesy of the Artist





Pepe Mar was born in 1977 in Reynosa, Mexico. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the California College of Arts in 2002 and earned a Master of Fine Arts at Florida International University in 2011. He has done numerous residencies, including at the Bronx Museum in NY, the Banff Art Gallery in Canada, the Skowhegan School of Painting in Maine, and the International Studio & Curatorial Program in Brooklyn. His work has been exhibited in multiple venues throughout the United States, Europe and Latin America, and published in the New York Times, ARTnews, Art in America and other major publications. Mar currently lives in Miami, where his work is part of the permanent collections of the Museum of Contemporary Art in North Miami and the Perez Art Museum Miami. He is represented by the David Castillo Gallery.

Pepe Mar's work is a reflection of the themes of contemporary culture, science fiction and pop culture. Through his use of color, breathtaking collages, and figures, he depicts a unique clash of cultures. Mar's work is an artistic illustration of attraction and vigor, the irony of vibrancy and diversity that targets complex cultural issues of modern society. According to David Castillo Gallery, "Mar excavates the ritual narratives inherent in secondhand stores, science fiction, celebrity, commercial design, and social media to create abstract and anthropomorphic barometers of contemporary culture. His rich, experiential process recalls the history of assemblage and painting. The artist's work is committed to a personal and universal exploration of cultural alienation."

Rebecca Budhoo  
Carmen Echavarría  
Arelis Paredes  
Alexander Swan



*The Cabinet of Dr. Mar*, 2014  
Collage on Wood  
72 x 72 inches  
Courtesy of David Castillo Gallery



*Baroque*, 2014  
Garment in Wood Frame  
48 x 52 inches  
Courtesy of David Castillo Gallery



Idelis Martinez  
Jennifer Narvaez  
Roxana Vargas  
Jonathan Williams

Yolanda Sánchez was born in 1953 in Havana, Cuba. Her family emigrated to the United States in 1960. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Art degree from Florida International University and her Master of Fine Art from Yale University. In addition, she obtained a Ph.D in clinical psychology in 1979. She was mentored by British painter John Walker during her studies at Yale. Sánchez is currently based in Miami Beach, where she lives and works. She also manages the Fine Arts and Cultural Affairs Division of Miami International Airport, a program which she created.

Sánchez's artwork is largely influenced by color, texture and light. "Nature, in a broad sense, is my source of inspiration, but I am not recreating the external world. I am translating and projecting thoughts, emotions and sensations, into a moment of meeting." Her main inspiration derives from the natural landscape, poetry, calligraphy, dance and Asian art. Sánchez works with oils on both canvas and paper. Her art can be described as not only a form of abstract painting, but a form of expression. She uses her art to reflect some of her experiences within the physical world around us by taking the subjects and objects of her works and dissolving them, only to be replaced by another presence that does not take a single form.

Sánchez uses the white, unpainted parts of the canvas in a deliberate way so that viewers can enter a zone of contemplation and finish the work for themselves. Her works do not aim to tell a story, but strive to awaken the observer and express a felt experience. Sánchez says, "My intention with my work—and I hope with my life—is to develop an attitude of openness and attention to beauty and joy, to live with more heart, to approach everything with a spirit of play and a "yes!" She has exhibited globally at the Museum of Craft and Folk Art, San Francisco; Kathryn Markel Fine Arts, New York; Museo Siyasa, Spain; Chojun Textile & Quilt Museum in South Korea, and many more galleries and museums.



*A Joyful Conversation*, 2014  
Oil on Canvas  
59 x 110 inches  
Courtesy of the Artist



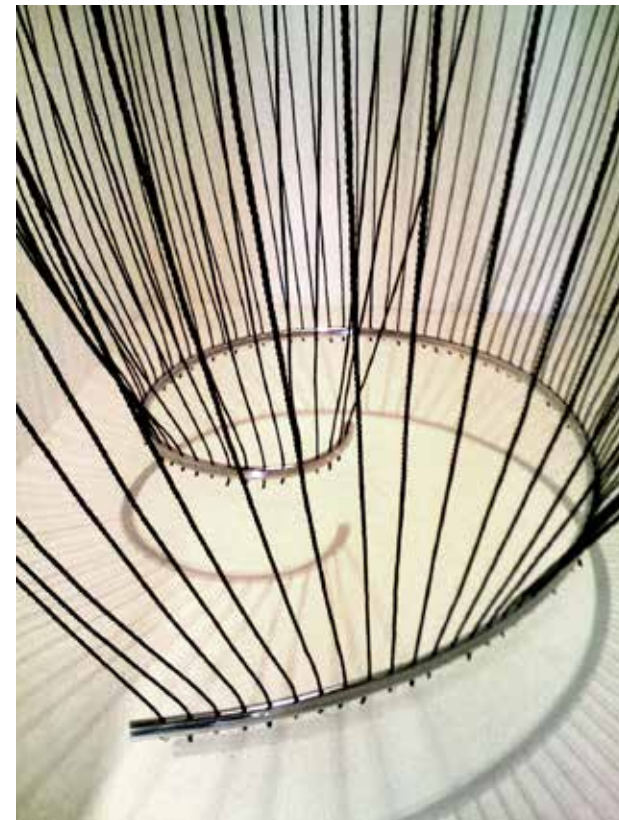
Nishita Aswani  
Elise Francis  
Moises Valcarcel

Alette Simmons-Jimenez classifies herself as “mixed media,” not only in her work but in her life. She was born in Madison, Wisconsin, received her Bachelor of Fine Art from Tulane University in New Orleans, lived in the Dominican Republic for 18 years, and lives and works in Miami, while simultaneously showing works in Brooklyn.

According to critic Shana Beth Mason in an excerpt from “Net-work,” “Simmons-Jimenez’s sculptures are (a) net-work, referring to an intricate system of points interconnected by a common thread, and the physical handiwork of mesh-like spaces enveloping exposed light.” Simmons-Jimenez explores the paradoxical relationship between body, nature, and technology, creating works in multiple media, based on the interaction of line, form, and space. In explaining one of her larger works, *Suspended Spiral*, she commented, “The spiral shape is the basis of humanity—not even, it’s the basis of the universe. I interpret things from spiraling galaxies to the little bird’s nest in the backyard. It runs the gamut from that huge macro to the tiniest little micro. The symbol of the spiral is really important and comes out in a lot of my work.”

Simmons-Jimenez finds herself creating art that has not been commonly explored. She uses ordinary and unexceptional materials and converts them into something extraordinary that interrelates with things that some people never even notice. Common themes that Simmons-Jimenez explores are ideas of entrapment and protection, capturing and escaping, and containment.

Simmons-Jimenez has exhibited internationally in various countries across Europe, Asia, and in the Americas. She also serves on the national board and is the Florida Chapter Chair of ArtTable, a national non-profit that supports leadership among women in the arts.



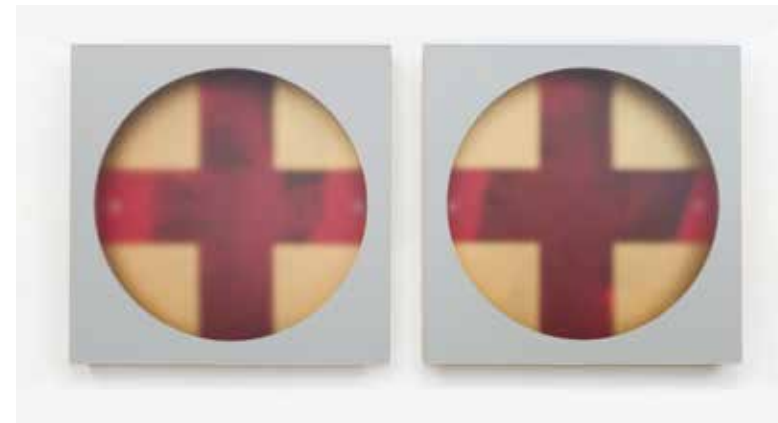
*Walk-In #88, Suspended Spiral*, 2010 - 2015  
Polypropylene Cords, Turned Aluminum Tubing,  
Aluminum Frame Structure  
Top Frame: 120 x 144 x 84 inches; Bottom  
Spiral: 1.5 x 60 x 46 inches  
Courtesy of the Artist



Emily Caproni  
Viktoriya Justiz  
Frances Melendez  
Kristine Perez

Robert Thiele is an American, Miami-based artist who does not define himself as an artist of one medium; he considers himself to be a “sculptor making a painting” who creates, changes, and hones layers. Born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1941 to German parents, Thiele was always interested in the arts while growing up. He practiced drawing by copying famous art pieces and learning from how-to-paint books. Thiele remembers being the artistically inclined student in most of his classes throughout the primary grades. When it came time for college, he moved to Ohio and attended Kent State on a football scholarship. While attending, he explored various areas of study, such as psychology and sociology. It was not until his junior year, when a friend invited him to take a course on carving, that Thiele realized what he wanted to do. After immersing himself in art, Thiele changed his major and later earned his BFA in sculpture in 1964 and his MFA in painting in 1966. Upon graduating, Thiele was offered a job by a friend in Miami, and spent the next 30 years as an arts professor at Miami Dade College.

However, he also continued to work on his own art and was awarded Individual Artist Fellowships from the State of Florida in 1982, 1989, and 2007. After teaching and establishing his first studio in Opa-Locka, Florida, Thiele moved in 1991 to Dumbo, an area under the Manhattan Bridge in Brooklyn, New York, with fellow artist and friend Elliot Miller. Thiele still divides his time today living and working between Miami and Brooklyn. Currently, Thiele owns the studio and warehouse Bridge Red Studios Project Space in North Miami; this is where the majority of his work ranging from the early 1970s to today is housed. Thiele’s work is widely exhibited and has been shown in Miami at the Emerson-Dorsch Gallery, in New York at the Howard Scott Gallery, and in Germany at the Galerie Tammen & Partner in Berlin and the Galerie Künstlerkreis-Ortenau in Offenburg.



*4-M-537, 2007*  
Acid-etched Acrylic Sheet, Wood, Acrylic Paint,  
Laminated Canvas  
40 x 40 x 5 inches  
Courtesy of the Artist

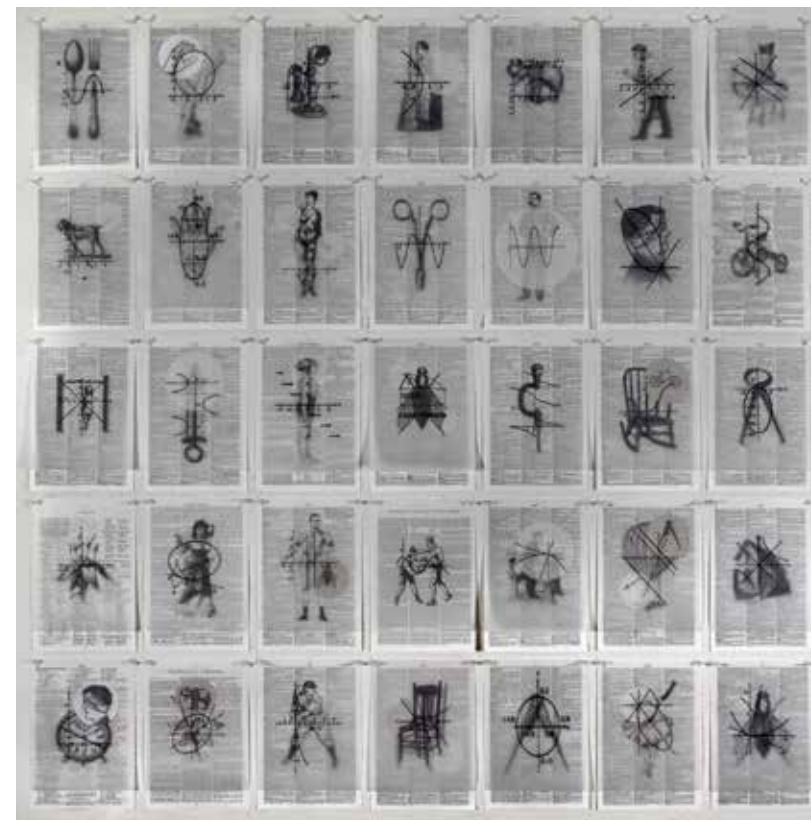


*2 to MXVII (Diptych), 2012*  
Wood, Oil Paint, Mixed Media, Laminated Canvas  
7 x 7 x 4.5 inches (each)  
Courtesy of the Artist



Ruben Torres Llorca was born in 1957 in Havana, Cuba. He studied at Escuela Nacional de Bellas Artes “San Alejandro” in Havana, the oldest and one of the most prestigious art schools in Latin America, and later at the Insitituto de Superior de Arte, mostly to avoid joining the military in Cuba. His father was also an aspiring artist, but regrettably died fighting in the Revolution. When Torres Llorca began creating art at the age of sixteen, he was told by numerous family members that his artwork resembled the work of this father; however, his art teacher, Antonio Alejo, was the greatest influence on his art career. Torres-Llorca became an artist because he wanted to tell a story, and became a founder of the very influential Cuban art group Volume 1 in the 1980’s. After revolutionizing the art scene in Cuba through the 80s, Torres-Llorca and many of the members of Volume 1 relocated to Miami in the early 90’s, bringing the same passion and creativity to a new location. When asked about his art, Torres-Llorca said that “Art is a balance,” and “what makes art good is the right balance between concept and form.” Torres-Llorca has created a wide variety of works ranging from sculptures to painting; his recent work has utilized pop art and images that resemble 1950’s advertising to display his ideas on the current state of society. Torres-Llorca currently resides in South Miami, where he continues to produce new and exciting artwork and contribute to the Miami art scene. He is represented by the Juan Ruiz Gallery in North Miami.

Daniel Haydar  
 Kyle Hirshson  
 Krissie Lobon  
 Josh Ovadia



*Casa Tomada*, 2012  
 Mixed Media  
 Courtesy of Juan Ruiz Gallery



A&V 2015 at the Center for Visual Communication. (Photograph by Barry Fellman © 2015 Center for Visual Communication. All Rights Reserved.)

Aesthetics & Values Service Learning fosters student involvement in the Miami Art Community. Honors College students assist artists or volunteer at local institutions with the objective of understanding art's interdisciplinarity and enrichment of community. In February 2015, the A&V class assisted Gerry Stecca in building a sculpture at the Deering Estate at Cutler.



EnerPower

Thanks to the individuals, museums, collections, galleries and their representatives that have welcomed us throughout the year: Richard Blanco, Elvire Bonduelle, Maggie Dinton of Koenig & Clinton, Barry Fellman of the Center for Visual Communications, Adler Guerrier, Nina Johnson-Milewski of Gallery Diet, George Kinghorn of the University of Maine Museum of Art, Omar Lopez-Chaoud of UNTITLED, Dina Mitrani of the Dina Mitrani Gallery, Chipi Morales of the Perez Art Museum Miami, Gerry Stecca, Sue Stoffel of UNTITLED, Hope Torrents of the Lowe Art Museum, Kim Yantis of the Deering Estate at Cutler, and Wendy Wolf of Vizcaya Museum and Gardens.

