

FIU professor receives award for monograph on Maria Brito

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MIAMI – Florida International University Art History Professor Juan Martinez has been awarded first place for his monograph *Maria Brito* within the non-fiction category of “Best Arts Book – English” by the Latino Book Awards during Book Expo America.



Martinez was commissioned to write the monograph on the Cuban-American artist. Born in Cuba and arriving in Miami as a child as part of Operation Pedro Pan, Brito is considered part of the “Miami Generation,” a group of Cuban-born American artists who emerged in the later 1970s. Brito, a painter, sculptor and installation artist, is best known for intricate mixed-media constructions that embody narratives of displacement and loss.

“This award came as a wonderful surprise,” Martinez said. “I am happy that my work is recognized by an independent national panel of experts on the art of Latinos. I am even happier for the attention it will bring to Maria Brito’s art.”

Martinez’s past works also include the monograph, “Carlos Enriquez, the painter of Cuban ballads”, which depicts the work of a controversial pre-Castro artist.

The Latino Book Awards began in 1999. They were created by the non-profit organization Latin Literacy Now, which supports and promotes literacy and literary excellence within the Latino community. This year’s awards took place at the Javits Center on May 25th.

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