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Update: Soriano in Southern California, Mendive in the Bronx, and *Pacific Standard Time* in LA

Published: July 11, 2017 [f \(http://www.facebook.com/sharer.php?s=100&p\[url\]=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cubanartnews.org%2Fnews%2Fupdate-soriano-in-southern-california-mendive-in-the-bronx-and-pacific%2F6225&p\[title\]=Update%3A+Soriano+in+Southern+California%2C+Mendive+in+the+Bronx%2C+and+%26%238220%3BPacific+Standard+Time%26%238221%3B+in+LA&p\[summary\]=%0A%09Servando+Cabrera+makes+a+rare+appea](http://www.facebook.com/sharer.php?s=100&p[url]=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cubanartnews.org%2Fnews%2Fupdate-soriano-in-southern-california-mendive-in-the-bronx-and-pacific%2F6225&p[title]=Update%3A+Soriano+in+Southern+California%2C+Mendive+in+the+Bronx%2C+and+%26%238220%3BPacific+Standard+Time%26%238221%3B+in+LA&p[summary]=%0A%09Servando+Cabrera+makes+a+rare+appea)
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Rafael Soriano, *Interior*, 1953
 Courtesy Long Beach Museum of Art

Soriano in Southern California. [Rafael Soriano: The Artist as Mystic](http://lbma.org/mc-events/rafael-soriano-the-artist-as-mystic/) (<http://lbma.org/mc-events/rafael-soriano-the-artist-as-mystic/>), the retrospective that premiered this past January at the McMullen Museum of Art in Boston, has arrived on the West Coast, where it opened and the end of June at the Long Beach Museum of Art. Close to 100 paintings, drawings, and pastels trace Soriano's career from early geometric abstractions to the translucent forms of his later work. According to the museum website, the show runs there through October 1, then travels to the Frost Art Museum in Miami, wrapping the tour at the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes in Havana. For the *Cuban Art News* interview with the show's curator, Elizabeth Thompson Goizueta, [click here](http://www.cubanartnews.org/news/soriano-rediscovered-the-artist-as-mystic) (<http://www.cubanartnews.org/news/soriano-rediscovered-the-artist-as-mystic>).

Mesías in Havana. In his show at [Factoría Habana](https://www.facebook.com/FactoriaHabana/) (<https://www.facebook.com/FactoriaHabana/>), José Manuel Mesías focuses on specific episodes in the Cuban wars of independence to explore the mechanisms by which history is constructed, imagined, rewritten, and turned into myth. His paintings and installations fill the galleries of Factoría Habana, where *Índice de imágenes: José Manuel Mesías* runs through October 20.



José Manuel Mesías, *El médico del espacio*
Courtesy Factoría Habana

And Servando Cabrera. The artist's portraits of rural residents and Havana urbanites are the subject of *Mirame así: Habaneras y guajiros de Servando Cabrera*, which opened late last month at [Galería Habana](http://galeriahabana.com/) (<http://galeriahabana.com/>). On view through July 21.

Octavio Irving at Servando. While Cabrera is showcased at Galería Havana, his namesake [Galería de Arte Servando](https://www.facebook.com/servandoartgallery/) (<https://www.facebook.com/servandoartgallery/>) is presenting *Octavio Irving: Pulsiones*. Combining drawing and painting, "the dozen works in *Pulsiones* create a restless and untr tranquil space," writes Rafael Acosta de Arriba in the exhibition text. "It is as if Octavio Irving had entered the realm of literary images of Edgar Allan Poe—certainly one of his favorite authors—intending to translate them into visual icons." On view through July 29 at Galería Servando.



A work by Octavio Irving in *Pulsiones*
Courtesy Galería de Arte Servando

And Alpizar at Villa Manuela. What do José Martí, José Lezama Lima, Virgilio Piñera, Bebo Valdés, Celia Cruz, and Guillermo Cabrera Infante have in common? They're all featured, in beautifully rendered detail, in Rubén Alpizar's series *Mi arca* (My Ark), one of the works on view in *La habitación del simulacro*. Rubén Alpizar's exhibition, currently on view at [Galería de Arte Villa Manuela](https://www.facebook.com/GaleriaDeArteVillaManuela/) (<https://www.facebook.com/GaleriaDeArteVillaManuela/>), runs through July 28.



A view of *La habitación del simulacro* by Rubén Alpizar at Galería Villa Manuela
Courtesy Galería de Arte Villa Manuela

Next week: Ben Jones. Next Friday, July 21, the artist and longtime Cuba hand opens his solo show, *Resistance / Resistencia*, at the Edificio Universal of the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes. The reception begins at 4 p.m. A conversation with the artist is scheduled for 11 a.m. the next morning, in the 4th-floor Hemiciclo of the Edificio Universal.

Posters in Santiago de Cuba. New York's Center for Cuban Studies has teamed up with the Galería René Valdés in Santiago de Cuba to present *Clásicos carteles cubanos del siglo XX*. Curated by Alejandro Lescay Hierrezuelo, Saily Rivas Hung, and Raimel Vuelta, the show opened June 30 and runs through the summer. At the reception, longtime Center for Cuban Studies director Sandra Levinson was presented with the "Crecemos" award—a sculpture of José Martí by Alberto Lescay—and "tons of flowers," as she wrote to us.



In Santiago de Cuba, Sandra Levinson accepts an award from sculptor Alberto Lescay.
Courtesy Sandra Levinson

Just published in Havana. Late last month, Eduardo Ponjuán celebrated the launch of *45 RPM*, a catalogue of his work of the past 20 years, with essays by Corina Matamoros, Lillian Llanes Godoy, Caridad Blanco, and other writers. The bilingual volume is published by Collage Ediciones, Havana. See the *Cuban Art News* walk-through of Ponjuán's 2015 *Premio Nacional* exhibition [here](http://www.cubanartnews.org/news/besame-mucho-eduardo-ponjuan-and-his-double) (<http://www.cubanartnews.org/news/besame-mucho-eduardo-ponjuan-and-his-double>).

Pacific Standard Time starts rolling in Los Angeles. *Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA* is an ambitious, region-wide arts initiative focusing on Latin American and Latino art and culture, involving approximately 70 museums and organizations across Southern California. Although most exhibitions and programs will open in the fall, a few are slated for the summer. Among the first to open is *Home – So Different, So Appealing* (<http://www.lacma.org/art/exhibition/home-so-different-so-appealing>), a look at the idea of home from a Latin American and Latino perspective. Now on view at LACMA, the show includes work by Luis Cruz Azaceta, Félix González Torres, and María Elena González. González's 2017 version of *Magic Carpet/Home* re-creates her 2003 outdoor sculpture, a made-to-scale replica of the floor plan of an apartment in LA's Watts district. *Home* runs through October 15.



María Elena González, *Magic Carpet/Home*, 2003/2017, installed at LACMA
Courtesy LACMA

Coming next month. More *PST: LA/LA* shows open in August, including *Deconstructing Liberty: A Destiny Manifested* (<http://muzeo.org/?exhibition=deconstructing-liberty-a-destiny-manifested>). Opening August 5 at Muzeo Museum and Cultural Center in Anaheim, CA, the international group show includes Ángel Delgado, Reynier Leyva Novo, Carlos Martiel, and Ángel Ricardo Ricardo Ríos.

And Hollywood in Havana. At the Pasadena Museum of California Art, this exhibition will present 44 posters from the island, offering a Cuban graphic-design take on classics like *Moby Dick*, *The Shining*, and *Schindler's List*—and a few clunkers like *What's So Bad About Feeling Good?* (1968), retitled for Cuban audiences as *La revolución de los inconformes*. *Hollywood in Havana: Five Decades of Cuban Posters Promoting U.S. Films* (<http://pmcaonline.org/exhibitions/hollywood-in-havana/>), opens August 20 in Pasadena.

Mendive in the Bronx. At the Bronx Museum of the Arts, a show by Manuel Mendive continues his creative exploration of Yoruba mythology and spirituality, and its roots in the natural world. *Manuel Mendive: Nature, Spirit, and Body* (<http://www.bronxmuseum.org/exhibitions/manuel-mendive-nature-spirit-and-body>) presents a new body of work, conceived as a cohesive grouping of paintings and sculptures. In September, the artist will present a new performance work created specifically for the Bronx Museum. On view through October 1.



A scene from a performance staged by Manuel Mendive
Courtesy Bronx Museum of the Arts

Dominoes at PAMM. Along with *On the Horizon: Contemporary Cuban Art from the Jorge M. Pérez Collection*, the Pérez Art Museum Miami is hosting *Spots, Dots, Pips, Tiles: An Exhibition About Dominoes* (<http://pamm.org/exhibitions/spots-dots-pips-tiles-exhibition-about-dominoes-0>). The international roster of artists includes Rodolfo Peraza (<http://www.southflorida.com/theater-and-arts/art/sf-miami-dominoes-exhibit-pamm-spots-dots-20170626-story.html>), whose handmade tiles, adorned with faces of Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, and other figures, became part of a "social experiment" documented in the video *I Don't Play Dominoes*. On view through October 29.

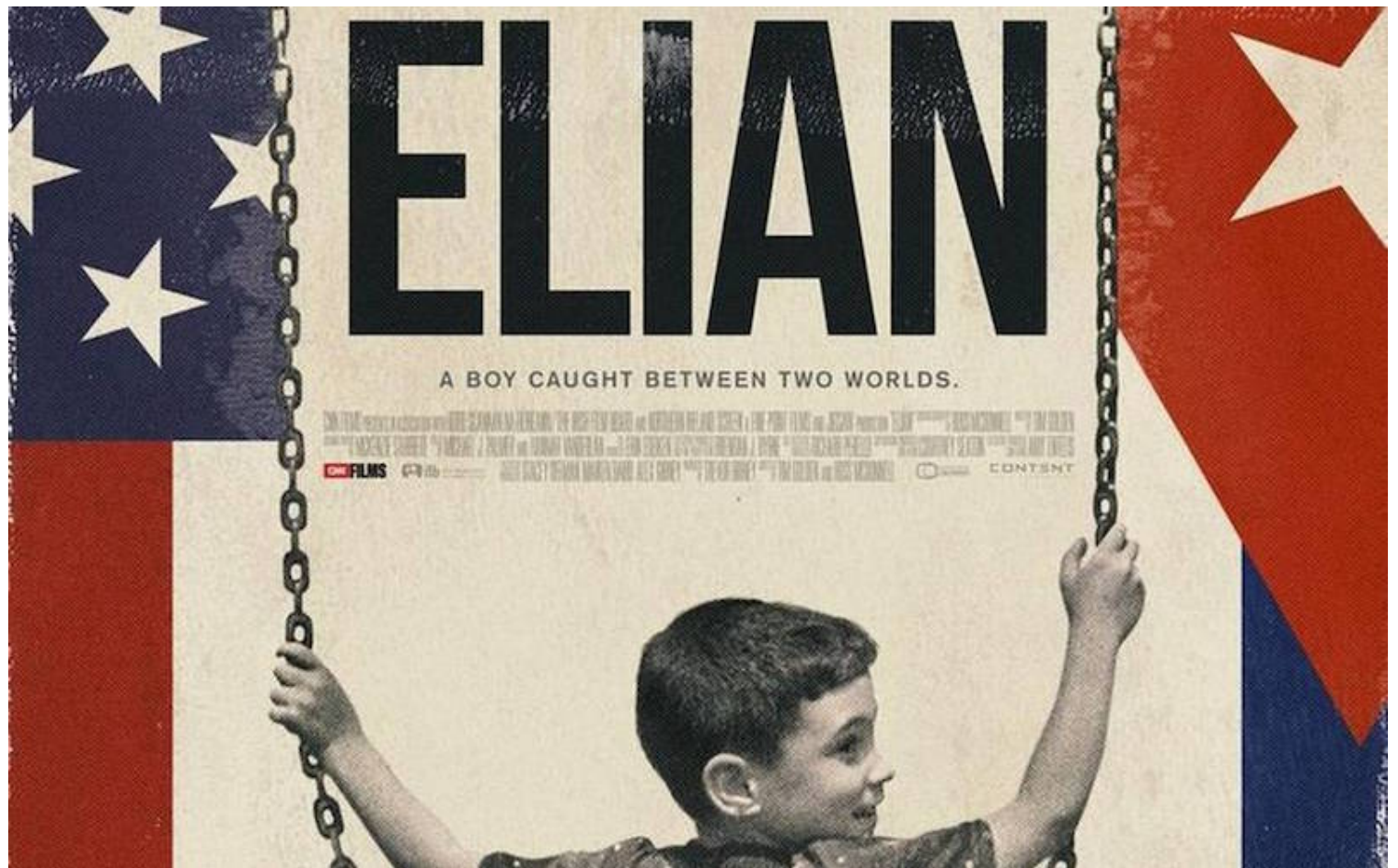
And on the website Hyperallergic, here's a [good photo walk-through](https://hyperallergic.com/387021/cuban-artists-find-escape-and-entrapment-in-the-sea/) (<https://hyperallergic.com/387021/cuban-artists-find-escape-and-entrapment-in-the-sea/>) of *On the Horizon: Contemporary Cuban Art from the Jorge M. Pérez Collection*.

Coming: Luna in Boca Raton. Taking inspiration from his Cuban training, his years in Mexico, and his current life in Miami, Carlos Luna's upcoming show features a new body of work on *amate* paper, a traditional product, made from tree bark, dating back to pre-Columbian Mexico. *Deep Line Drawings by Carlos Luna* (<https://www.bocamuseum.org/exhibitions/deep-line-drawings-carlos-luna>) opens Tuesday, August 8 and runs through December 31 at the Boca Raton Museum of Art.



Carlos Luna, *Florerito*, 2010
Courtesy Boca Raton Museum of Art

On TV next month. The documentary *Elián*, which premiered on the film festival circuit this spring, is coming to US cable television. *Elián* will air simultaneously on CNN/US and CNN en español (<http://cnnpressroom.blogs.cnn.com/2017/06/29/elian-premieres-thursday-aug-24-on-cnnu-s-cnn-en-espanol/>), with what the channel is calling "limited commercial interruption." Running two hours, the film debuts at 9 p.m. on Thursday, August 24. It will run again on CNN/US at midnight on Friday, August 25, and again on Saturday, August 26 at 10 p.m. and Sunday, August 27 at 2 a.m. (All times given are Eastern.)



Courtesy Cuba Today

And a good read. Online at *Art in America*, Rachel Price offers a lengthy, well-considered essay on *Adiós Utopia: Dreams and Deceptions in Cuban Art Since 1950*—which ran earlier this year at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and will open later this fall at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis—and *Wild Noise/Ruido salvaje*, which recently closed at the Bronx Museum of the Arts. By far the most detailed review of either show to appear in print to date. In English; [click here \(http://www.artinamericamagazine.com/news-features/magazine/beyond-the-revolution/\)](http://www.artinamericamagazine.com/news-features/magazine/beyond-the-revolution/).



BEYOND THE REVOLUTION

by Rachel L. Price



Umberto Peñá: *He Goes Puf*, 1967, oil on canvas, 64½ inches square. Courtesy Ella Fontanals-Cisneros Collection, Miami.



Two exhibitions—one extending from 1950 to the present and the other focused on the 1990s through today—bring artworks made in Cuba to US audiences.

EVEN BEFORE the December 2014 announcement of the normalization of relations between the United States and Cuba, several major US museums had begun organizing comprehensive shows of contemporary Cuban art. Their openings this spring came on the heels of both frenzy for all things Cuban and a new uncertainty about what changes the Trump administration may effect. "Wild Noise/Ruido Salvaje," presented by the [Bronx Museum of the Arts](#) through July 3, and "Adiós Utopia: Dreams and Deceptions in Cuban Art Since 1950," which closed in May at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and opens on November 11 at the [Walker Art Center in Minneapolis](#), quickly bumped up against the limits of US-Cuban relations. Both exhibitions were originally intended to include works from Cuba's Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes (MNBA), which exhibited some eighty pieces from the Bronx Museum's collection for the first part of "Wild Noise/Ruido Salvaje" in 2015. But the risk that artworks entering the United States might be seized due to claims concerning properties confiscated during the revolution dissuaded Cuban institutions from significant lending. The US institutions were

Courtesy Art in America

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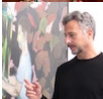
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In the Gallery with Enrique Martínez Celaya ([/news/in-the-gallery-with-enrique-martinez-celaya/5990](#))

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New Cuban Films: A Cinema Showcase Goes to College ([/news/new-cuban-films-a-cinema-showcase-goes-to-college/6183](#))

Nkame in New York: Belkis Ayón at El Museo del Barrio ([/news/nkame-in-new-york-belkis-ayon-at-el-museo-del-barrio/6182](#))

Cuban Art Shines at Art Basel 2017 ([/news/cuban-art-shines-at-art-basel-2017/6164](#))



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Update: Soriano in Southern California, Mendive in the Bronx, and Pacific Standard Time in LA (/news/update-soriano-in-southern-california-mendive-in-the-bronx-and-pacific/6225)

Servando Cabrera makes a rare appearance at Galería Habana as other Havana spaces host solo shows by José Manuel Mesías, Octavio Irving, and Rubén Alpízar. Classic poster design is celebrated in Santiago de Cuba—and coming soon, via Hollywood, to Pasadena. Dominoes start slapping at PAMM, and a massive Latin American initiative slowly unrolls across Southern California, bringing Cuban artists with it.

(/news/update-soriano-in-southern-california-mendive-in-the-bronx-and-pacific-stan/6224)

Playing the Fool: On the Tradition of Comic Politics in Cuba (/news/playing-the-fool-on-the-tradition-of-comic-politics-in-cuba/6210)

In Miami, *Hacerse el Bobo* / *Playing the Fool* takes as its starting point the figure of *El Bobo de Abela*, the beloved 1926 creation of artist and caricaturist Eduardo Abela. Janet Batet takes a closer look at the Bobo and his satirical descendants in the work of 3 contemporary Cuban artists.



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