

LnS GALLERY

ZONA MACO

February 5th – 9th, 2020

Booth NP2



TONY VAZQUEZ-FIGUEROA: SPECTACULAR MODERNITY

Tony Vazquez-Figueroa has researched the theme of Modernism in Latin America for over a decade; studying its origins and influences, both positive and negative on the local population, and its particular aesthetic. Most prominently, he addresses the issue in Venezuela and how oil was and continues to be a crucial element that shapes this crisis-ridden society today.

For this project, **Vazquez-Figueroa** focuses on what he calls *Spectacular Modernity*: the ways in which the various Venezuelan governments of the 1950s, 60s, and 70s used the economic resources of the oil income to boost a *National Aesthetic* both in material — art and architecture — as well as with race, creating the beginning of a massive gentrification.

From the perspective of art in its different ramifications, Venezuela richly promoted the image created by a handful of avant-garde artists of the time, to project the impression of development and progress; some of them were European immigrants like Gego and Leufert, and others were — the grand majority — Venezuelan heirs of the aesthetics of the previous group and highly influenced by the ideas of the Bauhaus, such as Carlos Raul Villanueva, Cruz Diez, and Soto, who became the spearhead for large government projects, such as universities, airports, mega-pavilions at international fairs, national industries, and more.

In this way, Constructivism and Kineticism became Venezuela's *National Aesthetic*, leaving

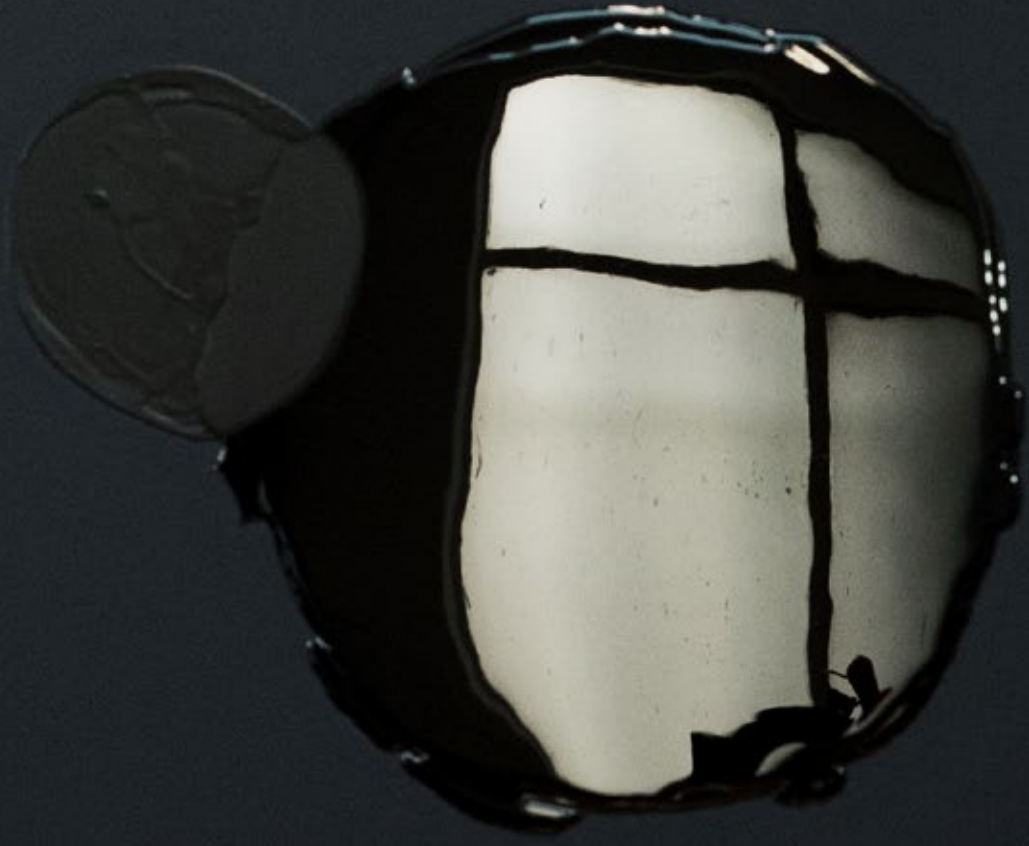
aside a group of artists, such as Eugenio Espinoza and Claudio Perna, who in turn created the alternative and truly avant-garde movement. Regarding gentrification, the Pérez Jiménez government, for example, created and promoted incredibly robust European migration programs, as well as housing blocks for the impoverished population, and educational programs where new generations were indoctrinated into the European and North-American styles of behavior.

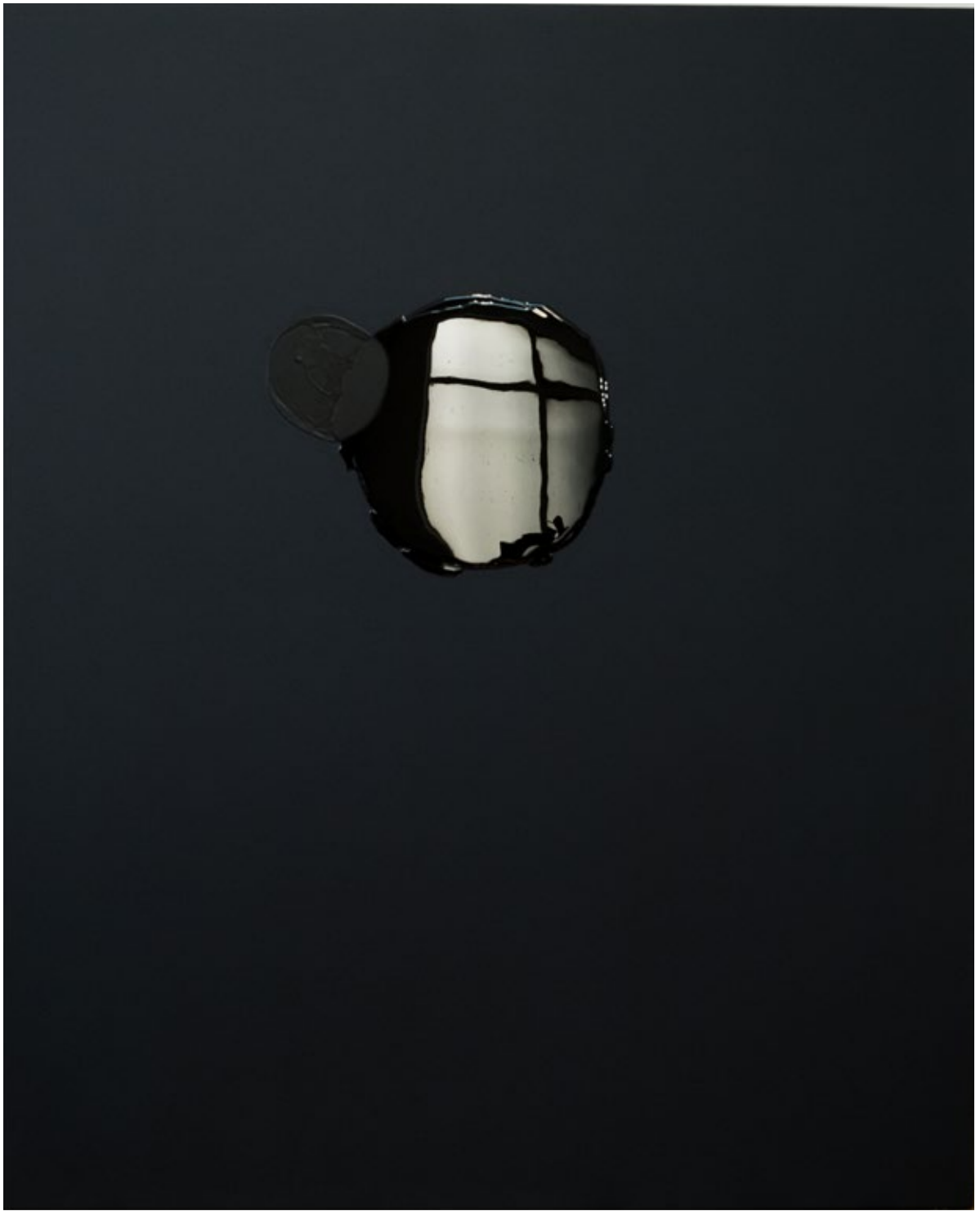
In *Spectacular Modernity*, **Vazquez-Figueroa** comments on how it is presently impossible to be an artist from Venezuela without referring to this past and this aesthetic. While some continue to manufacture mere kinetic derivatives without questioning their origins and much less their current relevance, the question and subject prevail with others to the point of fracture.

In this focus exhibition, **Vazquez-Figueroa** presents mirror boxes filled with the planet's heaviest crude oil — bitumen — intervened with elements of Constructivism and Kineticism inherited from the keen perspective of Eugenio Espinoza; these boxes reflect and distort space and the spectator. A similar phenomenon resonates in the black mirror paintings with highly reflective resin. **Vazquez-Figueroa** also presents photographs of the period in question, intervened with resin — a reference to the oil of some of the mega projects realized during that time.



Black Mirror Box Five Lines III, 2020
bitumen in plexiglass
45 x 37 inches (88.9 x 71.12 cm)

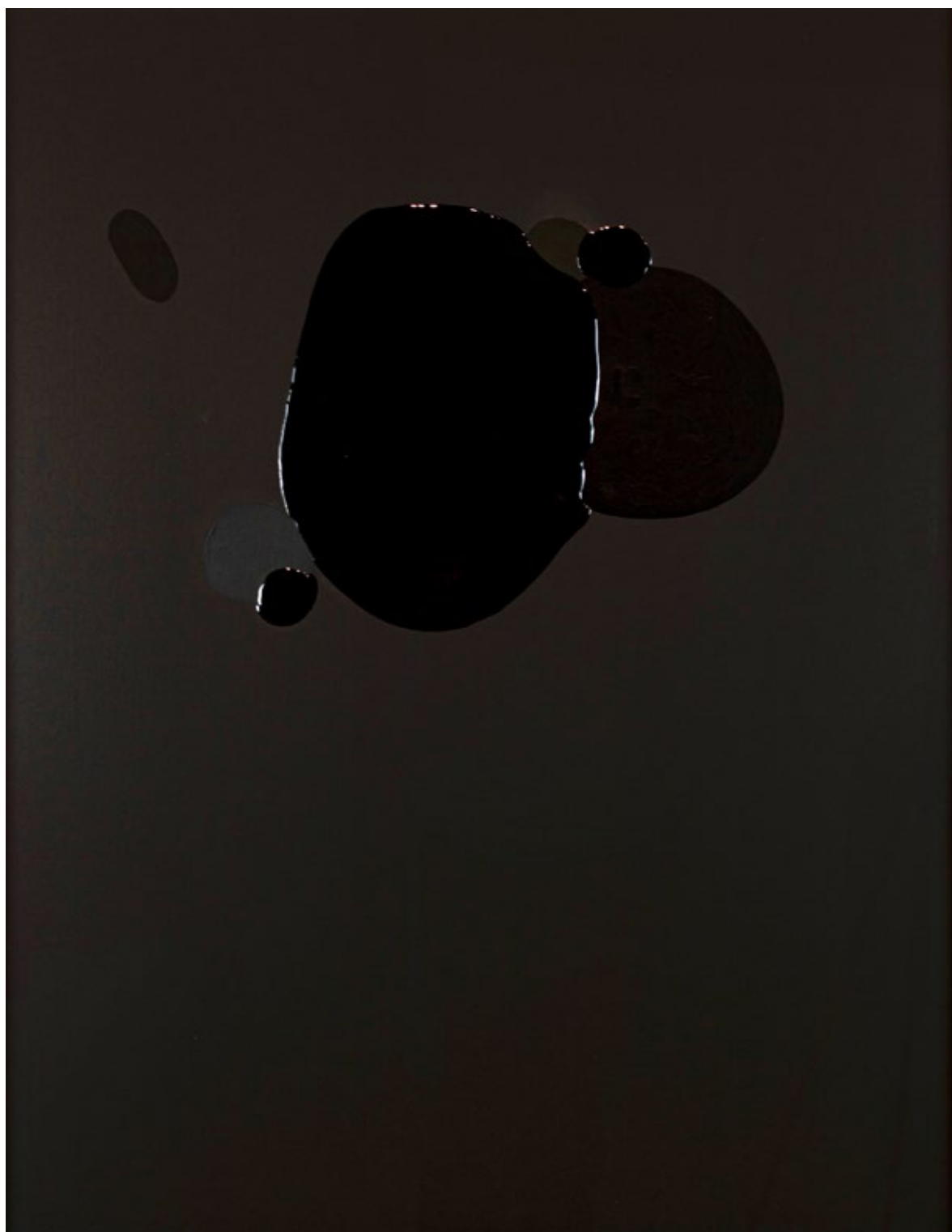




Black Mirror Painting / M3, 2020
acrylic, resin, and rubber on canvas
72 x 57 inches (183 x 145 cm)



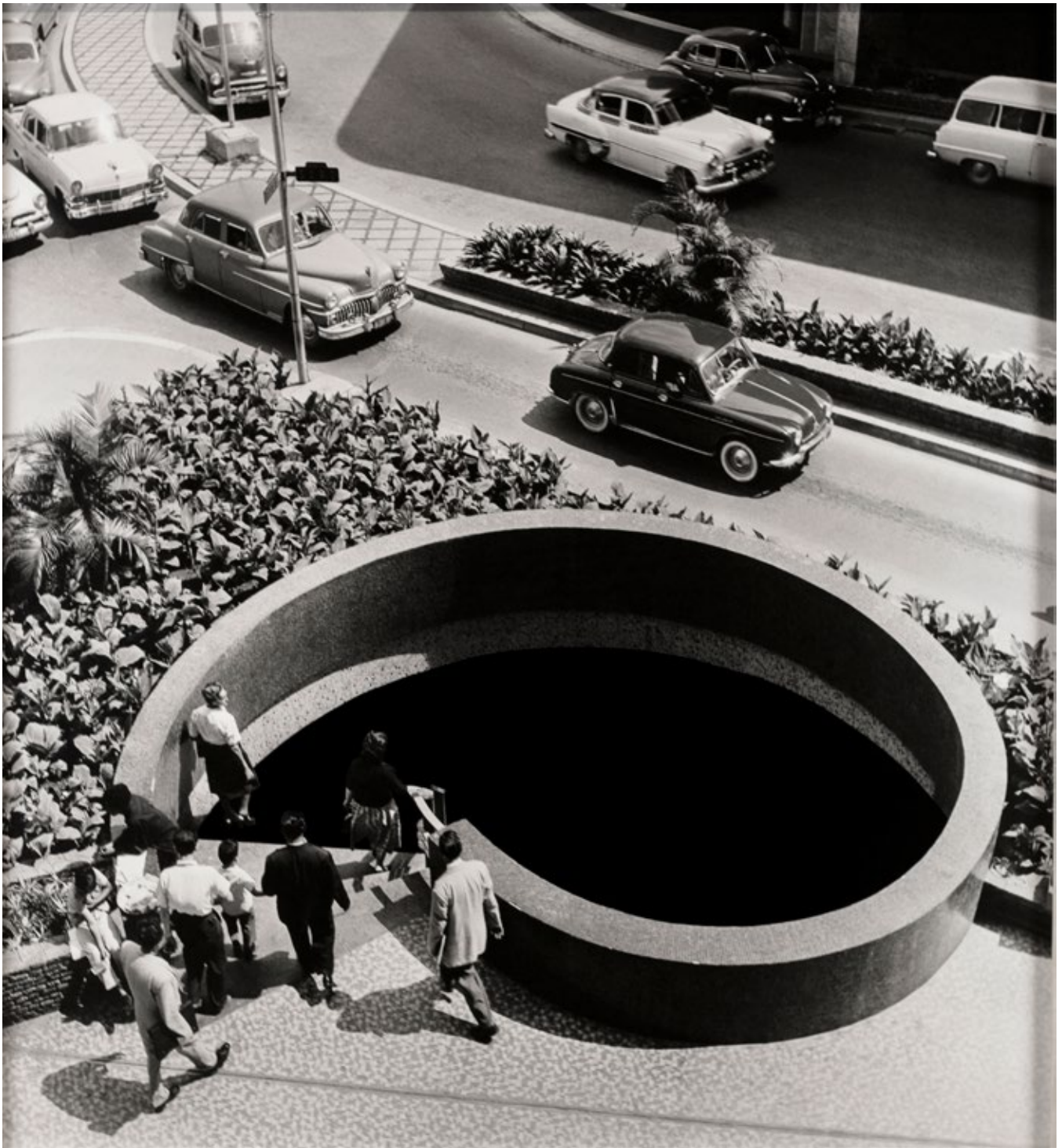
Black Mirror Painting / M1, 2020
acrylic, resin, and rubber on canvas
43 x 31 inches (109.22 x 78.74 cm)



Black Mirror Painting / G, 2018
acrylic, resin and rubber on paper
41 x 31 inches (104.14 x 78.74 cm)



Image of the Submodern, 2018
archival print with resin, edition of 3 (+2AP)
31 x 41 inches (78.74 x 104.14 cm)



Torre Simon Bolivar, 2019
archival print with resin, edition of 3 (+2AP)
39 x 35 inches (99.06 x 88.9 cm)



Archived Inventory, 2019
archival print with resin, edition of 3 + 2AP, suite of 18
6 x 4.5 inches each (15.24 x 11.43 cm each)



FVV_1, 2020
acrylic and polyurethane on canvas
10 x 8 inches (25.4 x 20.32 cm)



FVV_2, 2020
acrylic and polyurethane on canvas
10 x 8 inches (25.4 x 20.32 cm)



FVV_4, 2020
acrylic and polyurethane on canvas
10 x 8 inches (25.4 x 20.32 cm)

TONY VAZQUEZ-FIGUEROA

Born in 1970 in Caracas, Venezuela

Resides in Miami, Florida



EDUCATION

Slade School of Painting at UCL, London

New York Studio School / New York Academy of Art, NY

Academia de Arte San Alejandro, Cuba

BFA Film, Emerson College, Boston

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Perez Art Museum, Miami, FL

Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach, California

Kluger Kaplan Collection, Miami, FL

Villanueva Collection, Venezuela

Capriles Collection, Venezuela

Maldonado Collection, Miami, FL

Foundation Rozas – Botran Collection,

Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala

Tony Vazquez-Figueroa received his BFA (Film) from Emerson College, Massachusetts in 1992. By 1995, he had become an award-winning Advertising-Creative in Venezuela, with a client list including names such as Coca-Cola, Chrysler, Jeep, Fiat, Polar, BBVA, Chivas Regal, among others. At 27, he continued his art studies at the San Alejandro Academy in Havana, Cuba and then at the New York Studio School, where he earned a scholarship to study at the institution. He then finished his formal training in 2002 at the Slade School of Painting at the University College London, under the tutelage of Jenny Saville. His work has been greatly shaped by his experiences in Advertising and his time in Cuba between 1997 to 1999 and in Venezuela between 2002-2010. He received the First Prize of the 63rd All Florida Exhibition at the Boca Raton Museum of Art in 2014, the 2015 Rozas-Botran Foundation Latin American Award, and the Honorable Mention at the Long Beach Island Foundation for the Arts and Sciences, Works on Paper in 2017 in New Jersey, USA. His work is featured in public and private collections worldwide such as: The Perez Art Museum Miami, The Museum of Latin American Art California, the UNIS Museum Guatemala, the Kluger Collection and the Maldonado Collection among others; he has also been showcased in numerous solo and group exhibitions and international art fairs. He currently resides between Miami and Mexico.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2019

***Drawing from the Underdeveloped /
Line One (Focus Show)***

LnS Gallery, Miami, FL

2018

Black Surface The Undoing Process

LnS Gallery, Miami, FL

2017

Crude Inventory

Galería Rozas-Botran Zona 14,
Guatemala, Guatemala

2016

Within the Gaze

Artmedia Gallery – Miami, FL

2011

Closepop

D'griss Art Gallery – Panama, Panama

2008

Cata^logos

Galería Artepuy – Caracas, Venezuela

2005

Ad/iconic

Galería MAD – Caracas, Venezuela

2004

Venezuela Turmoil

South Florida Art Center – Art Basel Week
Miami, FL

Notations

Espacio D'stefano – Caracas, Venezuela

2003

Retro/Prospective

Centro Cultural Capuy – Caracas, Venezuela

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2019

Referencias y diálogos

Beatriz Gil Galería, Caracas, Venezuela

2018

Highlights

LnS GALLERY, Miami, FL

2017

Oolite

LnS Gallery, Miami, FL

The Collective Debut

LnS Gallery, Miami, FL

Crudo/Archivo

Espacio Cultural Fundación Rozas-Botrán,
Guatemala, Guatemala

Routes of Influence

Perez Art Museum Miami, Miami, FL

2016

Inventory/Takes

The Clemente Soto Velez Cultural Center, NY, NY

Arte en Mayo

Museo de Arte Moderno de Guatemala, Guatemala

Works on Paper National Exhibition

Long Island Beach Foundation, Long Beach, NJ

2015

Rozas-Brotran Foundation Exhibition

AG Gallery/ Northern Trust Bank, Miami, FL

Works on Paper National Exhibition

Long Island Beach Foundation, Long Beach, NJ

Color of Latin

Gyeongnam Art Museum, Seoul, Korea

2014

63rd. Annual All Florida Juried Exhibition

Boca Museum, Boca Raton, FL

Venezuela/Ukraine: Unexpected Conversation

Black Square Gallery, Miami, FL

Urbanism

Coral Gables Museum, Miami, FL

Paper Work Project

Black Square Gallery, Miami, FL

2013

Summer Reading

Black Square Gallery, Miami, FL

Dessine Moi

Galerie 208 – Paris, France

2012

Acquired

The Bakehouse Art Complex, Miami, FL

Tridimensionnel

Galerie 208, Paris, France

2011

Utilitaria

Galería Mad, Caracas, Venezuela

Sauvages

JG Platform Gallery – Miami, FL

2010

65

Salón Michelena, Valencia, Venezuela

Identidades

Galería MAD – Caracas, Venezuela

Collect Collage

Galería Estudio Arte 8 – Caracas, Venezuela

Brasil Reimaginado

Brasilian Consulate, Caracas, Venezuela

Retomando el Rojo

Galería MAD/Studio 64, Caracas, Venezuela

Eclectic

Galería G7, Caracas, Venezuela

2009

V Bienal de Maracaibo

Maracaibo, Venezuela

Pixeles

Gabriela Benaim Gallery, Caracas, Venezuela

Bridge to the Americas

Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach, CA

2007

Individualidades

Galería Artepyu/ Beatriz Gil Gallery, Caracas, Venezuela

2004

Ground Art

Art Basel Week, Miami, FL

2001

Merit Show

New York Studio School,

New York, New York

1998

Salón Servando Cabrera

Havana, Cuba

**SELECTED AWARDS
AND RECOGNITIONS**

2017

Honorable Mention, Works on Paper
Long Beach Island Foundation
for the Arts and Sciences, New Jersey

2015

Latin American Award
Rozas-Botran Foundation, Miami, FL

2014

63rd Annual All Florida Juried Exhibition
(1st Prize)
Boca Museum, FL
Panelist
Miami Photo Salon, Miami, FL

2001

1st Prize
Good Will Foundation,
Caracas, Venezuela

1998

Partial Scholarship
New York Studio School,
NY, NY

ZONA MACO

February 5th – 9th, 2020
Booth NP2

Centro Citibanamex, Hall D.
Avenida del Conscripto 311
Lomas de Sotelo, Mexico City, Mexico

VIP PREVIEW

Wednesday, February 5th
4pm to 9pm

OPENING HOURS

Thursday, February 6th
12pm to 9pm

Friday, February 7th
12pm to 9pm

Saturday, February 8th
12pm to 9pm

Sunday, February 9th
12pm to 8pm