



Installation views of the exhibition *Alien Nations 2020*, Carol A. Fewell Gallery, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 – March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Coral Gables, FL, December 1st, 2020** - The Coral Gables Museum is pleased to announce the opening of the exhibition, *ALIEN NATIONS 2020*, on view at the Carole A. Fewell Gallery from December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 to March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Alienation, that feeling of estrangement from reality, is not a new affair in art. Artists have been depicting feelings of alienation for a myriad of reasons, from personal and familial isolation to a broader disengagement from civil society and politics. Throughout time, they have found the most creative solutions and styles to speak for what are often collective emotions and aches that affect society at large.

There are many reasons why reflecting on this topic and feeling alienated this year. Our *annus horribilis* by any measure, 2020 has brought to the surface an eruption of our nation's most varied discontents. We have seen political upheavals, racial strife, economic crises, and the extreme anxiety of the Covid-19 pandemic fraying the fabric of society. We also experienced previously venerated institutions under attack; social media assuring our populace sees different worlds of "truth" depending on their political affiliations; and a gnawing sense of economic unease despite a soaring stock market. Additionally, an even more startling change, the meaning of technology, has transformed from its original intent and drawn us more into ourselves as well as made possible a connection to others. It has now become a lifeline, thus changing cultural habits that used to define who we were.

This exhibition gathers nearly two dozen artists, both emerging and established and many with connections to South Florida, who present works in a broad range of media

- painting, photography, sculpture, installation, and video. Through their unique viewpoints, they offer different takes on subjects of extreme importance that include current politics, the environment, the psychological effects of the Pandemic and personal alienation, among others. Whether they see the world as inevitably tragic or provide a reassuring glimmer of hope, they all speak to our times.

This project is organized by the Coral Gables Museum as a collaboration with the Lehman College Art Gallery, which will result in a comprehensive 80-page catalog containing full-color images and information on all 38 works in the show.

The exhibition is curated by Bartholomew Bland, Executive Director, Lehman College Art Gallery, and Yuneikys Villalonga, Chief Curator, Coral Gables Museum, reconceptualizing for our current time, a project originally organized by Bland and Villalonga for the Lehman College Art Gallery, City University of New York, in 2017. "Choosing alienation as a conceptual frame in the exhibition allowed us to examine an array of matters with which contemporary artists portray the complexity of the times we live in, from environmental issues, to current politics, to the effects of the media in society, among many others," said Villalonga. "I can't think of a more relevant topic than alienation in 2020, a year many of us look forward to seeing in our rearview mirror. The psychological and political moment has certainly been fraught and the compelling artists on view in the exhibition bear witness to 2020's concurrent crises," Bland said.

Special thanks go to all the participating artists, as well as to Ximena Caminos Collection, Dot Fiftyone Gallery, Adelson Galleries, Vanessa Grout Collection, Raúl and Mily de Molina Collection, The Jorge Pérez Collection, Spinello Projects, Bernice Steinbaum Gallery, and Steinbaum-Dubovy Family Collection.

## **ALIEN NATIONS 2020**

Carole A. Fewell Gallery | December 1st, 2020 - March 14th, 2021

EDDIE ARROYO | IMNA ARROYO | JAIME ÁVILA | WILLIAM BETTS | THOMAS BILS  
ADRIEN BROOM | LIU BOLIN | MARÍA MAGDALENA CAMPOS-PONS | CLAUDIA COCA  
CAMILLE ESKELL | GONZALO FUENMAYOR | PATRICK JACOBS | KANDY LÓPEZ  
TERESA MARGOLLES | BEVERLY MCIVER | PRISCILLA MONGE | MAGDALENA MURÚA  
ANASTASIA SAMOYLOVA | ANDREW STEVOVICH | SUPERFLEX | ELIZABETH THOMPSON  
RIRKRIT TIRAVANIJA | DEBORAH WILLIS | DEBORAH YASINSKY

Curated by Bartholomew Bland and Yuneikys Villalonga

**RELATED EVENTS:**

**GRAND OPENING:** In maintaining the safety of our staff and guests, and in the context of current Covid-19 guidelines, rather than a one-time reception where we host a large crowd our Grand Opening will extend from **Tuesday, December 1st to Saturday, December 5th**. Whenever possible, RSVP for different time slots throughout these days on the 'Visit' page of our website. Visitors who walk in during Happy Hour (5-6 pm) will be able to enjoy a sip of wine at the Museum!

**ART MIAMI WEEK BRUNCH****Alien Nations 2020: Brunch with Artists****Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 | 10 AM - 12 PM**

Join us for a brunch and intimate chat with some of the artists in the exhibition "Alien Nations 2020" and CGM's Chief Curator, Yuneikys Villalonga, one of the curators of the show.

**ARTIST PANEL: Alien Nations 2020: On Artistry and Alienation****Saturday, January 9 @ 2:00-3:30 online**

Moderated by Exhibition Curators Yuneikys Villalonga, Chief Curator, Coral Gables Museum, and Bartholomew F. Bland, Executive Director, Lehman College Art Gallery

Join the curators and artists from the exhibition *Alien Nations 2020* for this lively 90-minute discussion of how Artistry intersects with Alienation to spark the creative impulse. Among the timely questions that will be explored in the session are how does the enforced isolation of a pandemic shape an artist's practice? How does the embrace of heated social justice issues spur artistic engagement? How have the chaotic events of the past year shifted the discussion of artists engaging with arts institutions? How can alienation lead to depression and a loss of creativity? How can we employ the visual arts as solace that can help heal societal alienation?

**FREE**

To RSVP for the panel: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsc-mqrz0oHdL1ZVt3QpNfuva\\_RbEuSMUB](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsc-mqrz0oHdL1ZVt3QpNfuva_RbEuSMUB)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the conversation.

**Museum Hours:** Monday – Sunday: 12:00pm – 5:00pm

*\*Amid the current COVID-19 Pandemic the museum has implemented a few changes to better protect our visitors and staff. Sanitation stations will be available throughout the venue, as well as yellow floor markers to assist in maintaining social distancing. Due to Miami-Dade County ordinances, facial coverings are mandatory.*

*We strongly encourage you to RSVP in our website ([www.coralgablesmuseum.org](http://www.coralgablesmuseum.org)) ahead of your visit and pre-purchase tickets to avoid in-person transactions at the Museum.*

**ABOUT THE CURATORS:**

**Bartholomew Bland** is a curator and writer based in New York City, specializing in contemporary and 19th-century American art. He is the Executive Director of Lehman College Art Gallery, The City University of New York, and was previously Deputy Director and Director of Curatorial Affairs for the Hudson River Museum. He has conceptualized and organized more than 50 museum exhibitions. In 2019 — "Mediums of Exchange", presented at the Lehman College Art Gallery and the Shirley Fiterman Art Center and "The Color of the Moon", Hudson River Museum. Among other exhibitions: "The Seven Deadly Sins" (2015), Fairfield Westchester Museum Alliance; "Industrial Sublime: Modernism and the Transformation of New York's Rivers", (2013), which traveled to the Norton Museum of Art; "Oh Panama! Jonas Lie Paints the Panama Canal", (2016), which traveled to the James A. Michener Art Museum; and "American Dreamers: Reality and Imagination in Contemporary Art" (2012), for the Palazzo Strozzi, Florence. Curatorial projects: Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Staten Island, NY; Flagler Museum, Palm Beach, FL; Coral Gables Museum, FL; Bakehouse Art Complex, Miami; Concordia College, Bronxville, NY; the Ronchini Gallery; London; Eduardo Secci Contemporary, Florence; Vivant Books and Skira editore, Milan.

**Yuneikys (Yuni) Villalonga** graduated from Art History at the University of Havana, Cuba (2000) and went to serve as Curator at the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba, for the next four years. During this time, she was also teaching Contemporary Caribbean Art at the Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA) in Havana.

In 2004, she won the National Curatorship Award from the National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba (UNEAC) with the exhibition, *Së Bashku-Juntos-Tillsammans* presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tirana Biennial of Contemporary Art (Tirana, Albania, 2003) and at the Uppsala Museum (Uppsala, Sweden, 2004.)

As Visual Art Projects Manager at the British Council of Cuba (2004 - 2010) she organized several international exhibitions in Cuba and the UK. Her goal was inserting Latin American, Caribbean and Cuban art into a broader, international scene. In 2011, she joined Lehman College Art Gallery in New York, where she served as Curator for five years and was also involved in their broad arts education program for students of all ages. In 2016, she relocated to Miami, Florida where she worked as Associate Director of Exhibitions and Education at the Bakehouse Art Complex in Miami (2016-2017) and is currently the Chief Curator at the Coral Gables Museum in Miami, Florida. She also writes for several national and international art magazines.

**About the Coral Gables Museum:**

The Coral Gables Museum fosters an appreciation for the Civic Arts in Coral Gables. It explores and celebrates the history, vision, urban and environmental design, and cultural landscape of the City Beautiful within a broad audience that goes from children, families, and community members to national and international visitors. The museum optimizes its mission by cultivating effective partnerships, and providing programming that includes exhibitions, educational programs, lectures, tours, publications and special events.

**About Lehman College Art Gallery:**

Always free to the public, Lehman College Art Gallery has been serving the interests of our diverse audience from the Bronx and greater New York City since 1984. The gallery specializes in thematic group exhibitions that bring together famous artists with emerging talents. Education is an integral component of the Gallery’s programming and provides the basis of community outreach—from young students to senior citizens.  
[www.Lehmangallery.org](http://www.Lehmangallery.org)



**For more information:**

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