

UNIVERSITY
GALLERIES

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OCTOBER 27, 2023–JANUARY 26, 2024

***Vital and Veiled: Valerie Brathwaite and José Gabriel Fernández* / [ISLAA](#) ARTIST SEMINAR INITIATIVE**

GARY R. LIBBY UNIVERSITY GALLERY, UNIVERSITY GALLERIES, THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

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LEFT: VALERIE BRATHWAITE, *SOFT BODY*, 2011, COTTON FABRIC, THREAD, AND COTTON FILLING. RIGHT: JOSÉ GABRIEL FERNÁNDEZ, *LINGAM*, 2017, GESSO ON FRG (FIBERGLASS REINFORCED GYPSUM), PLYWOOD, AND MDF COURTESY OF THE ARTISTS.

***Vital and Veiled: Valerie Brathwaite and José Gabriel Fernández* / [ISLAA](#) ARTIST SEMINAR INITIATIVE** WILL BE HELD AT UNIVERSITY GALLERIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA (UF) FROM OCTOBER 27, 2023, TO JANUARY 26, 2024. THE EXHIBITION, CURATED BY KAIRA M. CABAÑAS AND JESÚS FUENMAYOR, IS THE SECOND EXHIBITION IN THE ISLAA ARTIST SEMINAR INITIATIVE / UF SERIES.

THE INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES ON LATIN AMERICAN ART (ISLAA) DESIGNED ITS ARTIST SEMINAR INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS IN FOSTERING INTIMATE EXCHANGES BETWEEN STUDENTS AND LIVING ARTISTS FROM LATIN AMERICA. FOR THE SECOND ITERATION AT UNIVERSITY GALLERIES, THE WORK OF ARTISTS VALERIE BRATHWAITE AND JOSÉ GABRIEL FERNÁNDEZ INFORMED THE TWO-SEMESTER PROGRAM OF A CURATORIAL SEMINAR FOLLOWED BY AN EXHIBITION. STUDENTS IN ART HISTORY AND MUSEUM STUDIES PROGRAMS TOOK PART IN A SEMINAR LED BY KAIRA CABAÑAS IN SPRING 2023 AND THEY WILL ALSO SERVE AS MEMBERS OF THE CURATORIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE EXHIBITION.

Vital and Veiled: Valerie Brathwaite and José Gabriel Fernández HIGHLIGHTS SEGMENTS OF EACH ARTIST'S MOST EMBLEMATIC SERIES: IN THE CASE OF VALERIE BRATHWAITE, HER STONES, FLOWERS AND "***soft bodies***" SCULPTURES, WHICH SHE HAS BEEN CREATING SINCE THE LATE 1960'S AS A WAY OF EXPLORING SENSUALITY IN NATURE (OR NATURE'S SENSUALITY). HER SCULPTURES ARE MADE OF DIFFERENT MATERIALS SUCH AS BRONZE, CLAY, CERAMIC, PLASTER, CEMENT, OR FABRIC, RESULTING IN A UNIQUE HYBRIDIZATION OF COLLAGE, PAINTING AND SCULPTURE. BRATHWAITE'S SCULPTURES ARE IMBUED WITH A VITALISM IN HER FORMS AND CHOICE OF MATERIALS, CONTRIBUTING TO THE DISCUSSIONS AROUND NEW MATERIALISM. IN THE CASE OF JOSÉ GABRIEL FERNÁNDEZ, THE EXHIBITION FOCUSES ON HIS EXPLORATIONS OF REPRESENTATIONS OF MASCULINITY AND VEILED HOMOEROTISM IN TAUROMAQUIA (BULLFIGHTING), WHICH HE INITIATED IN THE MID 1990'S, INCLUDING HIS "STUDIES" OF THE CAPOTE (BULLFIGHTER'S CAPE) AS A GENERATIVE SHAPE FOR HIS ULTRA-MODERN SCULPTURES. HIS WORK MARRIES A KEEN AESTHETIC SOPHISTICATED WITH VEILED REFERENCES TO SEXUALITY AND THUS CONTRIBUTES TO EXPANDED NARRATIVES ON QUEER ART.

EACH ARTIST EXPLORED THEIR OWN PATH FOR DEVELOPING AN EXPLORATION OF SENSUALITY THROUGH SCULPTURAL EXPERIMENTATION AND PRINT MEDIA. WHAT IS MORE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THEY EACH QUESTION HOW ARTISTIC PRACTICE RELATES TO A SPECIFIC IDENTITY, WHICH THEY BEGAN EXPLORING BEFORE IDENTITY POLITICS IN CONTEMPORARY ART EMERGED. THEIR DECADES-LONG DEDICATION TO THIS TYPE OF AESTHETIC INVESTIGATION PROVIDES THE FOUNDATION FOR AN IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION FOR OTHER CONVERSATIONS RELATED TO CONTEMPORARY ART, ART FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, AND CURRENT CURATORIAL DISCOURSES.

Vital and Veiled IS COMPLEMENTED BY TWO ADDITIONAL EXHIBITIONS FROM THE [ON VIEW: CURATORIAL STUDIES] SERIES. THE FIRST ONE IS ***Valerie Brathwaite. Works on Paper***, CURATED BY MACARENA DEIJ PRADO, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT THE GARY R. LIBBY FOCUS GALLERY FROM SEPTEMBER 21 TO NOVEMBER 18, 2023. THE SECOND ONE, ***José Gabriel Fernández. A Brief History of Drawing***, CURATED BY CAIT MOHR, WILL BE ON VIEW FROM JANUARY 12 – 27, 2024. FOR THE EXHIBITION AT THE G.R.L. FOCUS GALLERY, BRATHWAITE IS PRESENTING A SERIES OF HISTORICAL DRAWINGS, MOST OF THEM FROM THE 1970S, WHERE SHE EXPLORES HER IDEAS OF AN INNER LANDSCAPE AND THE EXPANDED POSSIBILITIES OF DRAWING, LIKE INCORPORATING THE SUPPORT (THE PAPER) AS INTEGRAL PART OF THE WORK, WHERE LINES AND FORMS COEXIST IN A CONTINUOUS STATE OF METAMORPHOSIS AND INFINITE EXPLORATION OF THE PICTURE PLANE. FERNÁNDEZ WILL SHOW, AS MOHR EXPLAINS, "A SERIES OF SEVEN 'ACTION DRAWINGS' TITLED ***Pequeño Manual de Dibujo***, OR, 'LITTLE DRAWING HANDBOOK,' DISRUPTING NOTIONS OF ARTISTIC DIDACTICISM AND EUCLIDIAN GEOMETRY THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF CERTAIN 'EVENTS' INTO THE DRAWING PRACTICE SUCH AS BURNING. PREFIGURING A LATER INTEREST IN THE INTERPLAY OF LIGHT AND SHADOW, ***Pequeño Manual de Dibujo*** MAKES EVIDENT THE TENSIONS BETWEEN MATERIALITY AND ILLUSION, EPHEMERALITY AND PERMANENCE. THE ACTIONS ARE DOCUMENTED THROUGH A SERIES OF DISSOLVING SLIDE PROJECTIONS RANGING FROM ***Drawing #1 to Drawing #7***, LOOPING CONTINUOUSLY.

A FULLY-ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE CURATORS, AND ESSAYS BY LUIS PÉREZ ORAMAS AND RACHEL SILVERI WILL BE PUBLISHED BY UNIVERSITY GALLERIES.

THE EXHIBITION PROGRAM AND PUBLICATION ARE PARTIALLY SPONSORED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES ON LATIN AMERICAN ART AND THE SCHOOL OF ART + ART HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, GAINESVILLE. ADDITIONAL EVENT SPONSORS INCLUDE THE HARN EMINENT SCHOLAR CHAIR IN ART HISTORY, THE DIVISION OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, THE SCHOOL OF ART AND ART HISTORY AND THE COLLEGE OF THE ARTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA.

EXHIBITION-RELATED PROGRAMMING

OCTOBER 27, 5–7PM

OPENING OF ***Vital and Veiled: Valerie Brathwaite and José Gabriel Fernández***

OCTOBER 10, 5PM

EXHIBITION TOUR BY MACARENA DEJ PRADO OF ***Valerie Brathwaite. Works on Paper***

NOVEMBER 11, 12 PM

EXHIBITION TOUR BY JESÚS FUENMAYOR OF ***Vital and Veiled: Valerie Brathwaite and José Gabriel Fernández***

JANUARY 18, 12 PM

EXHIBITION TOUR BY CAIT MOHR OF ***José Gabriel Fernández. A Brief History of Drawing***

OCTOBER 26, 6PM

LECTURE BY DR. E. CARMEN RAMOS, “FREDDY RODRÍGUEZ’S GEOMETRIES: DIASPORA, NETWORKS AND CONTEXT,” COLLEGE OF THE ARTS, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, LECTURE ROOM FAB 105.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

THE INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES ON LATIN AMERICAN ART (ISLAA) ADVANCES SCHOLARSHIP AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH ART FROM LATIN AMERICA THROUGH ITS PROGRAM OF EXHIBITIONS, PUBLICATIONS, LECTURES, AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH UNIVERSITIES AND ART INSTITUTIONS. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

[HTTPS://WWW.ISLAA.ORG/](https://www.islaa.org/)

THE GRADUATE PROGRAM IN ART HISTORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA OFFERS A GLOBAL ART HISTORY PROGRAM COVERING A BREADTH OF CONTENT FROM ACROSS TIME AND SPACE. THE PROGRAM ALSO OFFERS A GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN CURATORIAL STUDIES. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

[HTTPS://ARTS.UFL.EDU/ACADEMICS/ART-AND-ART-HISTORY/PROGRAMS/ART-HISTORY/DEGREES-WAYS-TO-STUDY/](https://arts.ufl.edu/academics/art-and-art-history/programs/art-history/degrees-ways-to-study/)

ABOUT UNIVERSITY GALLERIES

THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA UNIVERSITY GALLERIES’ MISSION IS TO BE A PLATFORM FOR RELEVANT AND EXPERIMENTAL ART RESEARCH AND A PLACE WHERE PRESSING CONTEMPORARY CONVERSATIONS ARE AMPLIFIED AND SHARED WITH THE UNIVERSITY AND EXPANDED COMMUNITIES. THE UG ADVANCES THE SCHOOL OF ART + ART HISTORY’S COMMITMENT TO THE VISUAL ARTS BY OFFERING AN EXPERIMENTAL SPACE TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER AROUND ART AND IDEAS, IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVITY THROUGH DIRECT STUDENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT; INCREASING THE SCHOOL’S VISIBILITY AS A CENTER FOR CRITICAL DISCOURSE AROUND ARTISTIC RESEARCH, PRODUCTION, AND SCHOLARSHIP, LEADING WITH PREEMINENT PROGRAMMING.

UNIVERSITY GALLERIES ARE COMPRISED OF THREE ART GALLERIES. GARY R. LIBBY UNIVERSITY GALLERY (GRLUG) PROVIDES THE GREATER GAINESVILLE COMMUNITY WITH A CONTEMPORARY VENUE THAT EXPLORES NEW DIRECTIONS IN VISUAL ART, INCORPORATING HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES. EXHIBITIONS FEATURE NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN ARTISTS, STUDIO ART FACULTY, AND MFA GRADUATING THESIS PROJECTS. THE GARY R. LIBBY FOCUS GALLERY AND THE CONSTANCE AND LINTON GRINTER GALLERY OF INTERNATIONAL ART PRESENT ART EXHIBITIONS THAT ARE ORGANIZED BY GRADUATE STUDENT CURATORS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE GALLERIES, ALLOWING STUDENTS TO LEARN EXPERIENTIALLY ABOUT CURATION, ORGANIZATION, AND EXHIBITION MAKING.

PARKING INFORMATION

DAYTIME PARKING IS AVAILABLE IN RESERVED SPACES BETWEEN FINE ARTS BUILDING C (FAC) AND INNER ROAD. FROM SW 13TH STREET, ENTER CAMPUS ON MUSEUM DRIVE. TURN RIGHT ON NEWELL DRIVE, THEN RIGHT ON INNER ROAD. TURN LEFT INTO THE PARKING LOT BEHIND FAC. THE FIRST THREE SPACES ON THE LEFT ARE RESERVED FOR GALLERY USE. PARKING PERMITS ARE ISSUED TO GALLERY VISITORS IN THE UNIVERSITY GALLERY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE UNIVERSITY GALLERY AT (352) 273-3000 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.ARTS.UFL.EDU/GALLERIES.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

THE COLLEGE OF THE ARTS IS ONE OF THE 16 COLLEGES AND MORE THAN 150 RESEARCH CENTERS AND INSTITUTES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA IN GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA. THE COLLEGE OF THE ARTS OFFERS BACCALAUREATE, MASTER'S AND PH.D. DEGREE PROGRAMS IN ITS THREE INSTITUTIONALLY-ACCREDITED SCHOOLS — THE SCHOOL OF ART + ART HISTORY, SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND SCHOOL OF THEATRE + DANCE. THE COLLEGE IS HOME TO THE CENTER FOR ARTS IN MEDICINE, CENTER FOR ARTS AND PUBLIC POLICY, CENTER FOR WORLD ARTS, DIGITAL WORLDS INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY GALLERIES AND THE NEW WORLD SCHOOL OF THE ARTS IN MIAMI. MORE THAN 100 FACULTY MEMBERS AND APPROXIMATELY THAN 1,200 STUDENTS WORK TOGETHER DAILY TO ENGAGE, INSPIRE AND CREATE. THE COLLEGE HOSTS MORE THAN 300 PERFORMANCES, EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS EACH YEAR. FACULTY AND STUDENTS ALSO EXHIBIT AND PERFORM AT OTHER LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL VENUES. TO LEARN MORE, VISIT WWW.ARTS.UFL.EDU.

