

PRESS RELEASE

Beyond the Frame

CONTEMPORARY CUBAN ART

.... another important chance to taste the vibrancy of the Cuban contemporary art scene (Richard Deacon, exhibition patron and Turner Prize winner)

Gallery 27 Cork Street, London – 23 to 28 April, 2012

The Lighthouse, Glasgow – 7 to 13 May, 2012

Beyond the Frame: Contemporary Cuban Art presents fresh and diverse artworks by 26 of Cuba's leading artists specially selected for this unique UK exhibition. Works by the island's internationally acclaimed contemporary artists will be displayed alongside top documentary photographers, some of whom have shaped perceptions of Cuba, both real and imaginary. Looking beyond the frame, the exhibition will offer a snapshot of an art scene that is engaging and thought provoking. Pieces in vivid colours and more sombre items, both abstract and figurative, will be displayed alongside conceptual work using found materials and familiar iconic images.

The range and calibre of the contributing artists has been ensured through a close working partnership with the National Council of Visual Arts in Havana. Artists have been invited to either create a new piece or select an existing work, because of its particular significance. Featuring painting, print, drawing, mixed media and photography, *Beyond the Frame* will offer a diverse picture of contemporary Cuba, the creativity of its artists and its history. It will be the first presentation and sale of work by some of these artists in the UK.



Alexis Leyva Machado (Kcho)
Sin título / Untitled (2007)
Drawing in blue crayon on white card
204 cm x 150 cm

Highlights will include work by Alexis Leyva Machado, known as Kcho, one of Cuba's best known and most internationally recognised living artists. Kcho's conceptual work in recycled materials is sought after by collectors internationally. He is also an accomplished draughtsman.

Manuel Mendive
Sin título / Untitled (2011)
Oil on canvas
44cm x 50cm



Manuel Mendive, another international exhibitor familiar to UK art viewers, uses myth and narrative to engage with Cuba's African roots.



Eduardo Roca Salazar (Choco)
Sueño caribeño / Caribbean dream (2011)
Collograph
66 cm x 69 cm

Eduardo Roca Salazar, known as Choco, has selected a highly textured human figure in the collographic technique that has contributed to his international reputation. In this type of artwork, collages of different materials are arranged on a board which is then used as the basis to make an impression on specialised cotton paper. As well as being recognised for the high quality of their craftsmanship, Choco's work is also viewed as truly emblematic of Cuban culture.

Juan Roberto Diago Durruthy
Día / Day (2011)
Mixed media
80cm x 60cm



Juan Roberto Diago Durruthy is one of the newer generation of contributing artists. He has a growing reputation in the international arena and has represented Cuba at the Venice Biennale. His work is held in collections in the USA, France, Italy, Spain and Switzerland, although he is not yet represented in the UK. The artist often works in jute, a material associated with sugar and by association with African slavery.



René de Jesús Peña González
Wardrobe (2007)
Photograph
54 cm x 40 cm

René de Jesús Peña Gonzales has been at the forefront of trends in art photography in Cuba since the early 1990s. For this exhibition he is contributing *Wardrobe*, a stunning photographic piece that depicts the artist's hand encased in brass, resting against his body.

'The long imprisonment has been defeated by love and art.'

Antonio Guerrero

The exhibition is also being staged to raise awareness of the Miami Five, five Cubans unjustly imprisoned in the United States for 13 years. The case is supported by Amnesty International, the UN Commission on Human Rights, and prominent individuals including eleven Nobel Prize winners.

Loosely referencing the exhibition's title, some Cuban artists have selected works that engage with the concept of a frame's boundaries while others look beyond it, taking the ideals of the Five, who have never wavered in their beliefs, as a metaphor for the principles of Cuban society. Central to the exhibition will be artwork by two of the Five, Antonio Guerrero and Gerardo Hernández, both of whom have taken up art while in prison.

***Beyond the Frame* unites UK-based artists and patrons in support of the campaign**

This rare opportunity will see Cuban art displayed alongside work by other internationally acclaimed artists. Alasdair Gray, Susan Hiller, Mona Hatoum, and John Keane are among the exhibitors. John Keane comments

'Since I think that in international relations culture can be the best ambassador I am pleased to be able to contribute to an event which seeks to by-pass international embargoes and highlights continuing injustice.'

The artworks by the twenty six Cuban and twenty other international artists are available for purchase. All income from sales will go to the campaign for justice for the Miami Five. A full list of exhibiting artists is in the notes for editors below.

***Beyond the Frame: Contemporary Cuban Art* is open for viewing and sales at:**

- Gallery 27, Cork Street, London W1 - Monday 23 to Saturday 28 April 2012
- The Lighthouse, Glasgow, G1 - Monday 7 to Sunday 13 May 2012

Press information

- For further information about the exhibition, artists and for images please contact:
Sue Barnard on 07759 293197 or by email at dodie.beyondtheframe@gmail.com
- For press enquiries about the Miami Five please contact:
Natasha Hickman on 020 800 0155 or email communications@cuba-solidarity.org.uk

www.cubabeyondtheframe.com

Notes for Editors

- *Beyond the Frame: Contemporary Cuban Art* is being organised in collaboration with the National Council of Visual Arts, Havana and Cuba Solidarity Campaign, London.
- *Beyond the Frame: Contemporary Cuban Art* is a not-for-profit event. All artists are donating their artworks and any surplus income from sales will fund Cuba Solidarity Campaign's ongoing work to achieve justice for the Miami Five.
- A programme of associated events will take place in London and Glasgow and at other venues in Edinburgh, Manchester and York
- Lesbia Vent Dumois, Eduardo Roco Salazar (Choco) and Gustavo Díaz Sosa will be attending the exhibitions and events and will be available for interview.

- **Cuban artists and photographers exhibiting in *Beyond the Frame*:**

Lidia Ethesr Aguilera Sanchez	Alexis Leyva Machado (Kcho)
Juan Vicente Rodríguez Bonachea	Rigoberto Mena Santana
Luis Enrique Camejo Vento	Manuel Mendive Hoyos
Manuel Comas Labrada	Michel Mirabel Martínez
Joan Arel Ruíz Contino	Liborio Noval Barbara
Juan Roberto Diago Durruthy	René de Jesús Peña Gonzales
Nelson Dominguez Cedeño	Rafael Pérez Alonso
Ernesto Fernández Nogueras	Ernesto Rancaño Vieites
José Fuster	Eduardo Roco Salazar (Choco)
Sándor González Vilar	Roberto Salas Merino
Gustavo Díaz Sosa	Liudmila Ivella Velasco and
Javier Guerra Fernández	Nelson Ramírez de Arellano
William Hernandez Silva	Lesbia Vent Dumois

- **Other contributing artists:**

Sam Ainsley	Derek Boshier	Susan Hiller
Rasheed Araeen	John Byrne, RSA	John Keane
Iwan Bala	Khulood Da'mi	kennardphillipps
Robert Ballagh	Rose Finn-Kelcey	Alexander Moffat, RSA
Steve Bell	Alasdair Gray	Tom Pietrasik
Ross Birrell and David Harding	Mona Hatoum	Jane Yates

- **Patrons:**

Art sector - Dawn Ades - Sam Ainsley - Rasheed Araeen - Steve Bell - John Berger - Ross Birrell - Guy Brett - Gilbert Brownstone - John Byrne - Professor Annie Coombes - Richard Deacon - Andrew Dempsey - Professor Valerie Fraser - Alasdair Gray - David Harding - John Keane – kennardphillipps - Catherine Lampert - Kim Longinotto - Professor Laura Mulvey - Tom Pietrasik - Julian Stallabrass

Other - Tariq Ali - Dr. Peter G. Bourne, MD, MA - Louise Christian - Liz Davies - Andy de la Tour - Jan Fairley - Neil Findlay, MSP - Tony Graham - Celia Hewitt - Roger Lloyd Pack - David Mackay - Jehane Markham - Professor Marjorie Mayo - Peter Mullan - Maxine Peake - Professor Patrick Pietroni, DSc (Hon), FRCP - Pedro Pérez Sarduy - Baroness Angela Smith, Baroness of Basildon - Drew Smith, MSP - Elaine Smith, MSP - Mark Stephens - Sandra White, MSP - Tony Woodley - Susan Wooldridge - Benjamin Zephaniah