

Update: Adrian Melis in Basel, *Yearning & Desire* in Florida, and *Curadores Come Home* in Havana

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Maikel Martínez, from the series "Mile 45," 2013

Courtesy Jorge M. Sorí Fine Art

***Yearning & Desire* in South Florida.** This past Friday saw the opening of this exhibition

featuring the work of two Miami-based artists, Maikel Martínez and Eduardo Sarmiento. At first glance, the two artists' work couldn't be more different: Martínez paints luminous seascapes depicting Mile 45, the imagined halfway point between the U.S. and Cuba, while Sarmiento—a graphic designer and illustrator as well as fine artist—finds flashes of comedy and satire in the undertow of desire.



Eduardo Sarmiento. *The dance of desire*, 2013

Courtesy Jorge M. Sorí Fine Art

For the show's curator, Ricardo Pau-Llosa, though, there's a common thread in the dreamlike quality of both men's work, and how yearning and desire shape our sense of ourselves and the space around us. On view through May 2 at Jorge M. Sorí Fine Art in Coral Gables.



Installation view of Adrian Melis, *Light Off*, 2013

Courtesy Adrian Melis

Adrian Melis in Basel. *The Value of Absence*, Melis's first solo show at a museum or arts institution, opened late last month in Switzerland at the Kunsthalle Basel. Much of his art explores the theme of workers and their work—or lack of it—in both socialist and capitalist economies. In a [statement on his blog](#), Melis explained: "My work explores the relation between the frames imposed by the sociopolitical, legal or economical structures, and the strategies generated by persons who try to evade or subvert those rigid rules." Case in point: his project *Production Plan of Dreams for State-run Companies in Cuba* (2010-2012), which harnessed the dream-power of workers sleeping on the job to generate a different kind of production. A more recent piece, *Light Off* (2013), is an arrangement of furniture lit from within, their glowing colors synchronized to the rise and fall of the Spanish stock market. *Adrian Melis: The Value of Absence* runs through May 26.

And Apócrofo in Havana. From Galería Habana comes news of another opening this past Friday: *Carlos Quintana: Apócrofo*, a solo show of the artist's work, on view for the next few weeks.

Curadores Come Home, too. In 2008, Havana artist Sandra Ceballos sent out an open call inviting anyone to submit a work of his or her choice for an exhibition at her gallery, [Espacio Aglutinador](#), that October. Titled *Curadores Go Home* (Curators Go Home), the result was as anarchic as the name implied.



The opening last week of Santiago Serra's videos, the first program in *Curators Come Home*.

Courtesy Espacio Aglutinador

Now, in an intriguing reversal, Espacio Aglutinador has launched a new project: *Curadores Come Home*. In a projected year-long program, a group of curators—carefully selected for their international experience, expertise, originality, and taste—have been chosen to present projects of their own choosing. To date, six curators have been chosen. The first project will run through this Thursday, April 10: curator Gerardo Mosquera presenting the work of Spanish video and performance artist Santiago Sierra.

Nationhood and Identity held over in New York. In a January Update, we wrote about *Nationhood and Identity in Cuban Art*, the first show of the season at the Center for Cuban Studies. We've just gotten word that the show—which was scheduled to close last week—will run through the end of the month in Chelsea.

Idols held over, too. In January, we also wrote about *Waiting for the Idols to Fall* and shared co-curator Orlando Hernández's provocative exhibition essay. The run for this show has been extended too—catch it at The 8th Floor gallery through May 15.

Iván Acosta wins an ACE. The Association of Latin Entertainment Critics of New York—known throughout Latin America and Spain as ACE, short for Asociación de Cronistas de Espectáculos de Nueva York—will present its annual awards this Sunday evening. Among the winners: director Iván Acosta, picking up the award for Best Direction/Drama for *Cuba: Punto X*, which he also wrote. Alfonso Rey will receive the ACE for Best Actor for his work in the production.

Cuban Art News and Archivo Veigas. If you've visited the *Cuban Art News* Facebook page lately, you may have noticed an increase in the number of photos documenting exhibitions and openings in Havana. Many of those albums appear courtesy of Archivo Veigas, one of the most esteemed repositories of visual arts documentation on the island, and mark the start of a collaboration between the archive and *Cuban Art News*. Among the Archivo Veigas albums currently on the Facebook page are photos from the Eduardo Ponjúan opening at Galería Habana, Santiago Rodríguez Olazábal at the Museo del Ron, and *Gritos en la pared* (Shouts From the Wall), the current show of poster art at the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes. Look for the Archivo Veigas logo to appear on several more albums this spring.

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