

BODE

Miguel Alejandro Machado Suárez – Yo Soy 5 March – 17 April 2021

We are pleased to announce the upcoming solo exhibition "Yo Soy" by Cuban artist Miguel A. Machado Suárez. The exhibition will open on 5 March 2021 at Bode Projects, Fasanenstr. 28, 10719 Berlin.

The exhibition "Yo Soy" [I am] unites different work groups, dating from 2016 until 2020, demonstrating the artist's virtuosity and skill of technique in Cuban Art. By mixing comic elements with historical painting, traditional three-layer or post-impressionist techniques, the artist addresses universal as well as pictorial questions, thereby fostering vision and thought. For Miguel A. Machado Suárez, *being a painter* means actual *being*, which "Yo Soy" impressively visualizes: "One of the attractions of painting, is to have the possibility of not thinking, while doing it. For me it is something natural, necessary and vital. The sheer existence allows me to paint, and painting helps me to exist."

Yo soy [I am] testifies to a very particular and constant theme in Cuba's search for identity: the need to define oneself. Miguel Alejandro Machado Suárez defines himself in what he does in his making – and in his paintings. He refers to the exhibition as "Yo soy esto y esto soy yo." [I am and therefore I am]. As much as a statement, the exhibition theme is centered on the notion of "experience", Yo Soy is an invitation to enter the world of the painter Miguel Alejandro Machado Suárez.

Miguel A. Machado Suárez took up painting as a philosophical practice in the socio-political context of Cuba which is opposed with a pseudo-conceptual dogmatism that has been undermining art education on the island from the late 1990s to the present day. The vast imagery by Miguel Alejandro suggests an alternated view on the world in an attempt to express freedom, liberation and transformation.

Miguel A. Machado Suárez (born 1990, Pinar del Rio, Cuba) studied Fine Arts and Painting at Instituto Superior de Arte ISA, Havana, and at Academia Profesional Eduardo Abela in San Antonio De Los Baños. He lives and works in Havana. The exhibition Yo Soy is his first solo show in Europe.

The monograph »Miguel Alejandro Machado Suárez« presents a detailed study of his work, the publication is released on the occasion of the exhibition. The publication focuses on four work periods from 2013 until today. The extensive image section is complemented by a comprehensive essay, an interview and biography as well as indicative statements on the working method of the artist.

Release date: 5 March 2021

Curator:

Liatna Rodríguez López was born in 1986 in La Havana, Cuba. Liatna Rodríguez is an art historian and curator based in Havana. She works as an independent curator since she graduated in Art History at the University of Havana in 2010. As an independent curator, Liatna Rodríguez López' research involved analyzing the art market and the economic, political and social relations, established between artists and institutions of Cuba. Liatna Rodríguez López served as director of Havana's Galería Servando from 2011 throughout 2015. In 2012, Liatna co-created the Havana Open House project, an off-space venture of the XI Havana Biennial, which was repeated by the institution in subsequent biennials. In 2015, Liatna Rodríguez co-founded the first independent gallery in Cuba, El Apartamento.

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