

RAFAEL DOMENECH & ERNESTO OROZA: *Hialeah Eléctrica – Metavector*
JUN 16 – OCT 10, 2021



Hialeah Eléctrica – Metavector will present a series of collaborative works by Cuban artists Rafael Domenech and Ernesto Oroza. For their first joint museum exhibition, the artists construct a site-specific installation that is both architectural and sculptural and functions on three different levels: as an artistic project, an index and an archive. “Instead of using the exhibition to show results, we want to use the exhibition as a tool to produce research – this process is open to developing pedagogical and participatory protocols with our collaborators,” say Domenech and Oroza. Using Computer Numerical Control (CNC) technology, the artists rework quotidian elements like vinyl and drywall (often found or repurposed), along with photos, newspaper, and typographical ephemera from their archive as the material vocabulary that constructs their visual investigations.

Bringing together shared interests and explorations into architecture, urban planning, modes of material production and adaptive construction, as well as mutual histories as Cuban émigrés to Miami, Domenech and Oroza fuse references to the South Florida city of Hialeah and Japanese architect Arata Isozaki (the architect behind the museum’s 2001 expansion project and 2017 transformation) as case-studies, sources for production and conceptual materials for the objects and structures in their exhibition. Hialeah is nicknamed “The City of Progress” and home to the United States’ second-largest Hispanic population (94.7% of residents identifying as Hispanic)¹. It is also anecdotally known as the epicenter for fabrication of all types in Miami. The artists are interested in Hialeah’s vernacular response to globalized modes of production and economic infrastructure. Looking to modern architectural history, along with the history of The Bass’ building, Domenech and Oroza situate their installation at The Bass in reference to Arata Isozaki’s collaboratively-formed installation *Electric Labyrinth* (part of the never-opened 1968 XIV Triennale di Milano), which reflected on the possibilities and drawbacks of the rapid architectural (re)development of Post-WWII Japan.

Rafael Domenech (b.1989, Havana, Cuba) utilizes and explores notions of architecture, urban design, and contemporary material production as research tactics for the production of different typologies of objects and spaces. His work has been exhibited at SculptureCenter, New York (2020), Socrates Sculpture Park, Long Island City (2019), Phillip and Patricia Frost Art Museum, Miami (2019), Fredric Snitzer Gallery, Miami (2019), Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York (2014), and the Artium Museum, Vitoria, Spain (2015), among others. He was the recipient of an award from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Tulsa Artist Fellowship, and the Cintas Fellowship. He holds an MFA from Columbia University.

Ernesto Oroza (b.1968, Havana, Cuba) is an artist, designer, and author living and working between Miami and

¹ U.S. Census Bureau (2010). The Hispanic Population: 2010. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-04.pdf>

Saint-Etienne, France. A graduate of Havana's Superior Institute of Design and later a professor in both Cuba and France, his practice is geared toward highlighting and critically understanding human-object interactions and the role that collective engagements with material culture have in the making of community. He has authored several books on popular creativity as expressed in tool objects and the urban environment—what he theorizes as “technological disobedience” and the “architecture of necessity,” respectively. Oroza's creative practice is grounded in community research, and he develops research methods as well as channels of dissemination that follow the vernacular practices and economic logics of his subject-objects. Oroza has been awarded fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, The Ellies and the HARPO Foundation, and received the Pernod Ricard Fellowship from the Villa Vassilieff, among others. His recent exhibitions and presentations include *Rupture* at Socrates Sculpture Park, New York (2019), *Signos 36* at #00Bienal de La Habana, Cuba (2018), *Museo Popular Concreto* at Fredric Snitzer Gallery, Miami (2017), and *The Transparent Object* at Mmuseumm 2, New York (2017).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Rafael Domenech & Ernesto Oroza: Hialeah Eléctrica – Metavector is curated by Leilani Lynch. The exhibition is part of the Knight Art Commissions Program funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and supported in part by the Diane W. Camber Exhibition Fund.

The Bass is funded by the City of Miami Beach, Cultural Affairs Program and Cultural Arts Council, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, and The Bass membership.

ABOUT THE BASS

The Bass is Miami Beach's contemporary art museum. Founded in 1964 by the City of Miami Beach, the museum was established after the donation of a private collection by residents John and Johanna Bass and opened in what was formerly the Miami Beach Public Library and Art Center, a 1930s Art Deco building designed by Russell Pancoast. Recognized for organizing the first solo museum exhibitions in the United States of international artists such as Erwin Wurm, The Bass has also presented major exhibitions by influential artists including El Anatsui, Isaac Julien, Eve Sussman and Piotr Uklański. The exhibition program encompasses a wide range of media and artistic points of view, bringing fresh perspectives to the diverse cultural context of Miami Beach. The Bass is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. For more information, please visit www.thebass.org, or follow The Bass on social media at www.facebook.com/TheBassMoA or Twitter and Instagram via @TheBassMoA.

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS AT THE BASS

Rafael Domenech & Ernesto Oroza: Hialeah Eléctrica – Metavector
June 16 – October 10, 2021

Najja Moon: Your Mommas Voice in the Back of Your Head
March 18, 2021 – January 2022

Abraham Cruzvillegas: Agua dulce
November 29, 2020 – March 13, 2022

Open Storage: Selections from the Collection & Works On Loan
On Long Term View

Work from Home The Willfulness of Objects
On Long Term View

MEDIA CONTACTS

Hazen Mayo

SUTTON

hazen@suttoncomms.com

+1 212 202 3402

[Image credits: (First page - left) Detail of Vector 2 LOW for Hialeah Eléctrica - Metavector (2020). Image courtesy of the artists. (First page - right) Detail of Vector3 LOW for Hialeah Eléctrica - Metavector (2020). Image courtesy of the artists.]