

# THE BASS

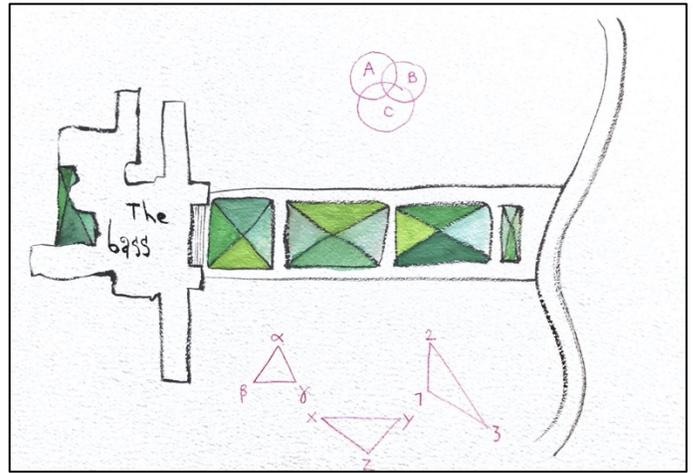
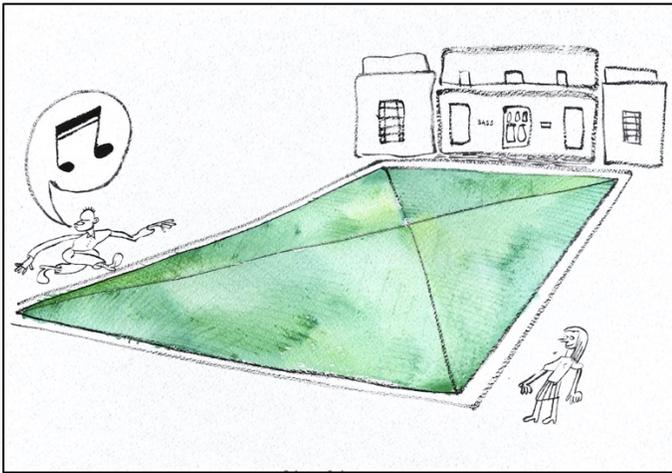
THE BASS MUSEUM OF ART  
2100 Collins Avenue  
Miami Beach, FL 33139  
www.thebass.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## THE BASS PRESENTS ABRAHAM CRUZVILLEGAS: *AGUA DULCE*

The installation, made of over 1,000 plants, is free and presented outdoors.

On view November 29, 2020 – April 18, 2021



- *Agua dulce* presents a newly commissioned sculptural installation by Cruzvillegas, utilizing a selection of over 1,000 native plant species, fauna and mineral to form a planted environment in front of the museum.
- Situated outdoors, within Collins Park, the installation features seating made of locally sourced and found materials. The use of found objects is a long-standing practice of Cruzvillegas' called *autoconstrucción* or "self-construction."
- The installation is part of The Bass' ongoing *Art Outside* initiative created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (NOV 12, 2020) – The Bass presents *Agua dulce*, a large-scale sculptural installation by Abraham Cruzvillegas on view from November 29, 2020 - April 18, 2021. Extending from Collins Avenue along the central promenade of the park leading up to the museum entrance, the installation encompasses nearly 14,000 square feet. Commissioned by the museum, the project will bring the artist's philosophy of *autoconstrucción* or "self-construction," a practice of resilience and generosity, to The Bass' Collins Park. Utilizing numerous species of flora, fauna and mineral, performers mimicking native birds, and seating that the artist constructed with locally sourced materials, *Agua dulce* will form a plant environment in front of the museum, free for the public to enjoy.

While The Bass had initially planned to mount the third iteration of Cruzvillegas' exhibition *Hi, how are you, Gonzo?* (originated by The Contemporary, Austin and Aspen Art Museum in 2019), which consisted of a group of locally built sculptures that were activated by the public and during events, the exhibition plans were modified at the onset of the pandemic in March 2020. *Agua dulce* developed from a curatorial proposal and discussion with Cruzvillegas to utilize the adjacent Collins Park as a new, open-air site for his exhibition. Through collaborative research with local experts on native flora, Cruzvillegas selected around 23 different species to create the installation of more than 1,000 plants. Many of the included species, like the *Salix Caroliniana* (Coastal Plain Willow), have medicinal properties and are regularly used by the Seminoles, introducing notions of care and restoration to the installation.

Collaboration, adaptability, and a focus on "the local" are core tenets of Cruzvillegas' practice that emerge within the exhibition out of necessity, as well as by design. Through the "reclaimed" landscape of native species, visitors

can learn from and question their surrounding environment. "*Agua dulce* works within our changed reality where enclosed spaces are perceived as less safe, to imagine the park as an exhibition platform while redefining public greenspace as a site for healing and reflection," says curator Leilani Lynch. Following *Agua dulce*'s duration in Collins Park, the plants will be dispersed and rehoused within the community as a continuation of the project.

The installation is presented as part of the museum's ongoing initiative called *Art Outside*, created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, where our attention and mobility have been limited to our neighborhoods and the surrounding city.

#### PROGRAMMING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29 | 2-4 PM

##### FAMILY DAY

On the last Sunday of every month, enjoy free admission to the museum. Enjoy a day of free art-making for all ages in Collins Park inspired by Abraham Cruzvillegas' *Agua dulce*. Take part in an art hunt and engage in an outdoor art-making activity (materials will be available onsite). Families can also participate at home with a virtual art hunt and a step by step instructional video.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 | 12 PM

##### CURATOR CULTURE

Join artist Abraham Cruzvillegas, chef Elena Reygadas, and Curator of Public Programs Tom Healy for *Rethought, Restored, Regifted, Remade: A Conversation on Reconnecting with Everyday Life*. The talk will be streamed on website and Facebook Live.

#### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Abraham Cruzvillegas's artistic process is deeply influenced by his surroundings, rather than being defined by a particular medium, many of his projects are linked by the platform *autoconstrucción*, a concept that draws from the ingenious, precarious, and collaborative building tactics implemented by the people living in Colonia Ajusco, his childhood neighborhood in Mexico City. He appropriated this term in relation to his practice to describe an approach of inventive improvisation and instability. This work has led him to explore his own origins and to collaborate with family and friends in a very personal form of research that results in a constant process of learning about materials, landscape, people, and himself.

Through his oeuvre –which includes sculpture, painting, drawing, installation, and video–, Cruzvillegas uses a wide range of collected object: his sculptures challenge the traditional conceptions of art making, while his paintings and drawings are marked by a keen depiction of the subject and a strong sense of humor —instilled in him from his early training as a political cartoonist. Parallel to his artistic production, Cruzvillegas has cultivated writing as an investigative tool of self-analysis that merges history, criticism, and fiction. His song lyrics and texts about art, politics, and culture are a layer to be added to his aesthetic practice.

Abraham Cruzvillegas (b. 1968, Mexico City) studied Pedagogy from 1986 to 1990 at UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México) in Mexico City while simultaneously attending Gabriel Orozco's workshop Taller de los viernes. In 2012, he was the 5th laureate of the Yanghyun Prize and in 2006 he received the Prix Altadis d' arts plastiques. He lives and works in Mexico City.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Curated by Silvia Karman Cubiñá, Executive Director and Chief Curator, and Leilani Lynch, Curator, The Bass.

*Agua dulce* is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. To find out more about how National Endowment for the Arts grants impact individuals and communities, visit [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov). Additional support provided by The Cowles Charitable Trust.

*Agua dulce* is part of *Art Outside* presented by The Bass Museum of Art in partnership with the City of Miami Beach Art in Public Places, Miami Beach Urban Studios–Florida International University, The Wolfsonian–Florida International University and the W South Beach. *Art Outside* is supported in part by the Funding Arts Network.

#### 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 Ukiński. 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. The Bass is generously 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. For more information, please visit [www.thebass.org](http://www.thebass.org), or follow The Bass on social media at [www.facebook.com/TheBassMoA](https://www.facebook.com/TheBassMoA) or Twitter and Instagram via @TheBassMoA.

#### CURRENT & UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS AT THE BASS

##### *Work from Home*

November 29, 2020 – April 2021

##### *Mickalene Thomas: Better Nights*

Through January 31, 2021

##### *The Willfulness of Objects*

Ongoing

##### *Open Storage: Selections from the Collection & Works on Loan*

Ongoing

##### *Art Outside*

Ongoing

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For a complete selection of high-res imagery and to access the full press kit, please visit [www.thebass.org/presskit](http://www.thebass.org/presskit).

[Images: Preparative sketches for *Agua dulce* at The Bass by Abraham Cruzvillegas. Courtesy of the artist.]