

ARTE NO ES FÁCIL

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Links Hall is pleased to present, **ARTE NO ES FÁCIL**
An exhibition series featuring the collaborative work of artists from Cuba and the United States
co-created by Marilyn Volkman and Danielle Paz

January – March 2012

Weekend One: January 20, 21 & 22
Weekend Two: February 17, 18 & 19
Weekend Three: March 16, 17 & 18

ARTE NO ES FÁCIL is a self-reflexive artwork based in creating relationships beyond pictures between Cuba and the U.S. through the manifestation of art. The current phase of the project is a three-week exhibition series exploring public presentation as a means of creating a more expansive discussion about art and political realities. Collaborative works produced by pairings of emerging artists from Havana and Chicago will be presented at Links Hall in Chicago from January – March 2012. For more information about the artists and the exhibitions visit www.artenoefacil.com and www.linkshall.org

Weekend Two:

Friday, February 17 at 8pm

Performance, Installation, Dance, Screenings, Q&A with Cuban and American Artists
Marilyn Volkman / Danielle Paz (project co-creators)
Carlos Martiel (Havana) / Erik Wenzel (Chicago & Berlin)
Núria Güell (Barcelona) / Anna Trier (Chicago) / Hedwig Dance (Chicago)

Saturday, February 18 at 8pm

Video Screenings, Social Interventions, Dance, Performance & Installation
Francisco Masó Alfonso (Havana) / David Hartwell (St. Louis)
Javier Castro (Havana) / Patrick Holbrook (Chicago)
Yali Romagosa Sanchez (New York) / Erica Mott (Chicago)

Sunday, February 19 at 7pm

Video, Performance, Presentation by Project Co-creators, Q&A with Cuban and American Artists
Susana Delahante Matienzo (Havana) / Andrea Smith (USA)
Danny Volk (Chicago) / Grethell Rasúa (Havana)
Latham Zearfoss (Chicago) / Manuel Ernestoo Cardona (Havana)
Marilyn Volkman / Danielle Paz (project co-creators)

INFO & LOCATION:

Links Hall is located at 3435 N. Sheffield Avenue, Chicago, IL 60657
BROWN, PURPLE & RED line stop at Belmont and RED line Addison stop. For more information **773.281.0824** / www.LinkHall.org

*Tickets \$15 at the Door / \$12 Online / \$10 Students & Seniors – *or pay what you can*
Links Hall promotes "pay what you can" programming so all can attend

ARTE NO ES FÁCIL is generously supported by The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Links Hall, The University of Chicago: Department of Visual Art, The Open Practice Committee, Arts Council, The Claire Kantor Foundation, Art Chicago, NEXT, FOTA, and many generous private donations.

Project Co-creator Bios:

Danielle Paz is a Chicago-based artist using video as the working-genesis to explore the boundaries of shared experience among people. Her work is inscribed in the physical application of film history and practice, media theory, and contemporary debates surrounding subjectivity to question the lasting power of images. Danielle received her MFA from the University of Chicago in Visual Arts and her BFA from Savannah College of Art and Design in Video, minoring in Photography. Danielle is full-time faculty teaching Photography and Video at Truman College in Chicago, IL. www.danpaz.com

Marilyn Volkman is a Chicago-based artist who inhabits structures both institutional and non-institutional in nature. Volkman's interest lies in the intersubjective application of language and image to manifest ethereal, existential questions about seemingly concrete things. Her practice can be seen as a quasi-documentary approach, which builds a relational-narrative inside and alongside the changing energy of existing structures. It can also be viewed as a method for understanding which asks questions on the boundary of control and desire regarding the relationship between chance, intention and meaning within larger social, economic and political spheres. Marilyn received her MFA in Visual Arts from the University of Chicago in 2009 and her BFA in Painting and Drawing from the University of Arizona in 2007. She currently teaches in the College of Art and Sciences at Roosevelt University. www.marilynvolkman.com

Participating Artist Bios for Weekend Two:

Erik Wenzel Recent solo exhibitions include *If travel is searching & home what's been found* at the WerkStadt Kulturverein in Berlin, DE in 2011. *Live A Little, Live Ennui* at the Harold Washington College President's Gallery, and *New 'N' Lonelier Laze* at DOVA temporary, both in Chicago in 2010. In April of 2012 Wenzel will present *FRESH FAT* at 65GRAND in Chicago. He is co-editor and contributor to "Internal Necessity: a reader tracing the inner logics of the contemporary art field" published by the Sommerakademie at the Zentrum Paul Klee and Sternberg Press.

Carlos Martiel Delgado Sainz is a graduate of the National Academy of Fine Arts "San Alejandro" in Havana, Cuba. He was a participant in ARTE DE CONDUCTA from 2008-2009 and he is currently pursuing studies at the Instituto Superior de Arte, Havana, Cuba. He has performed and exhibited his work at the Estonian Museum of Art and Design in Tallinn, Estonia, the Museum of Arts in Seattle, Washington, the Museum of Arts and Design (MAD) in New York, and Das Hochhaus Kokeiri Hansa Museum in Dortmund, Germany. Carlos has also participated in biennials including the 6th Liverpool Biennial, the XXXI Pontevedra Biennial, and the 10th Havana Biennial.

Núria Güell, I think about our institutions and the ethics that they use. I'm interested in discovering the abuses that the government declares as "legal". At the same time I analyze the mechanisms that create control, and how this control establishes certain behaviors, ideas and floods our senses. These analyses make me visualize their strategies, and a path of new ways to contravene certain crises. To accomplish this I provoke interference in the every day environment, creating other possible realities and altering the relationships within power. Raised in Barcelona and Havana, Núria Güell was a participant in the 10th Havana Biennial in 2009, the Pontevedra and Liverpool Biennials in 2010, and the Trienal de Tallin and Bienal de Liubliana in 2011. Her work has traveled throughout Barcelona, La Haya, Madrid, Hertogenbosch, París, New York, Miami, Formigine, Londres and Havana.

Anna Trier founded the Happy Collaborationists in 2009 and currently co-curates the Happy Collaborationists Exhibition Space where curative practice is expressed as a performative activity that has propelled "Happy C" towards a new mode of communication that bridges the gap between art and art events – curation as art.

Hedwig Dances is a contemporary dance theatre ensemble under the artistic direction of its founder, Jan Bartoszek. Hedwig Dances' bold, interdisciplinary collaborations combine poetic choreography with sculptural artifacts, projected images, and haunting original music. The resulting dances resonate with complexity and depth and provoke emotion, connection, and wonder. In 1992 Department of Cultural Affairs Commissioner Lois Weisberg invited Hedwig Dances to become the dance company in residence at the Chicago Cultural Center. Hedwig Dances reaches out into the community through public performances, collaborations, and dance education. The company is named after Ms. Bartoszek's paternal grandmother. Hedwig Dances creates and performs contemporary dance works from a variety of choreographers that convey the essence of the human experience via movement and expression. Through its training and mentoring programs, Hedwig Dances teaches dance and movement to professional dance artists, thereby enriching the cultural life of the individuals and communities it reaches.

Francisco Masó is interested in concepts of power and accusation as they function in the disintegration of the social, cultural, and institutional mechanisms—acting as behaviors which are settled deep into the individual. Francisco studied at San Alejandro National Fine Arts Academy in Havana, was a student of Tania Bruguera's Arte de Conducta, and currently studies in the Higher Art Institute (ISA) in the discipline of Stage Design.

David Hartwell. Born in Richmond, Virginia, David Hartwell is a visual artist who creates work in a variety of media including photography, video, drawing, and printmaking. Much of his art explores how memory relates to the recording, editing, archiving, and presentation of information, and the many digital and analog processes through which personal and public histories are created. He received a BA in studio art and communications from Stanford University and an MFA from California College of the Arts. He currently lives and works in St. Louis.

Patrick Holbrook. Most of Patrick Holbrook's time away from being a full time print and web designer goes into Laughing Eye Weeping Eye, a psychedelic folk music, performance, and moving image collaboration with his partner Rebecca Schoenecker. His own visual project attempts to collapse concepts of territory. He curates exhibitions at Eel Space, his apartment gallery, and teaches at SAIC part-time. He received an MFA from The University of Massachusetts – Amherst.

Javier Castro. From 2004 to today Javier Castro has completed videos and installations with the intent of capturing the modes of survival within one part of Cuban contemporary society. His work has gone from performance to direct registry with an anthropological perspective. Initially, subjects carry out actions in front of the camera that are previously discussed and agreed on, later their familiarity allows the artist to position the lens as another listener. The artist does not involve politics, nor judge the context. More accurately, he presents it, explores it, and leaves us to see paths of frustrations and worldviews of the common subject in "marginal" zones of the island. Modes of daily cultural resistance, where those in charge are the ones with the loudest voice, the most terrifying pose, the most physical wounds. Javier Castro's work has been shown in Cuba, USA, Colombia, Mexico, Bolivia, Uruguay, Ecuador, Argentina, UK, Germany, Belgium, Italy and Spain. He has a Bachelor of Arts from the Instituto Superior de Arte in Havana, a Bachelor of Arts, PP.Sch. Cuba, attached to the Columbus University of Mexico, a Diploma in the Art of Conduct, and a diploma from San Alejandro Academy of Fine arts in Havana.

Yali Romagoza Sanchez was born in Havana, Cuba. Studied Art History and Fine Arts. Is a visual artist, performance maker and fashion designer. In 2009 started the fashion and behavioral project Normal Is Good in a performance at Galeria Habana part of the Havana Biennial. Has exhibited her work at important international events such as Gothenburg Biennial, Havana Biennial, Liverpool Biennial of Contemporary Art. Bétonsalon Centred'art et de recherche, Paris, Art Basel Fair, Miami. Have had collaboration with visual artist like Ezequiel O. Suarez, Tania Bruguera at Gothenburg Biennial, Gothenburg. Performance artist based in NY Carmelita Tropicana, designing her costume in the show feMUSEum Project at Toynbee Studios, Tate Modern and Bethnal Green Working Men's Club, London.

Erica Mott is a choreographer, puppeteer, performance maker, and cultural organizer who, utilizes body based sculptural forms (mask/costume/object), transforms discarded materials and disregarded spaces. Using the tools of humor and surprise, she captures and heightens the magic and mystery of the mundane and invites communities to re-view and re-envision shared spaces and practices. Erica's recent site-specific performances were featured at Ingenuity Fest (Cleveland), NES (Iceland), Museo del Ferrocarril (Mexico), CAD Special Exhibitions Space/Artopolis. Erica has collaborated nationally with Tim Miller, Eighth Blackbird, Sharon Bridgforth, Coman Poon/re[public] in/decency, and Guillermo Gomez-Pena. She works with Gomez-Pena's collective, La Pocha Nostra, as a core troupe member. Erica recently was awarded The Santa Fe Art Institute Residency and the Chicago Dancemakers Forum Fellowship. Erica serves as the Director of Education and Community Programming at Links Hall, Chicago.

Andrea Smith. Born in the United States, Andrea Smith does not claim any national allegiance. Investigating site-specific governmental taxonomies, she is interested in infrastructure as a shifting invention that can shape ideas of centralized power. Andrea believes new states can and will be erected with the jurisdiction of other states and that supremacy lies within the individual. Andrea's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, you may have seen it.

Susana Pilar Delahante Matienzo lives and work in Havana, Cuba. Currently, she is pursuing her Postgraduate studies in New Media at Karlsruhe University of Arts and Design (HfG). Susana studied at the High Institute of Arts (ISA) in Havana, Cuba, and has participated in Braziers International Artists Workshop, Arte de Conducta, "INTERMEDIÆ-Minbak", ARCO 07, and other extra-artistic workshops at the International Forensic Congress in Havana. Susana's work has been included in the 10th Havana Biennial, the 7th Gwangju Biennial, III Biennale Arts Actuels Réunion, in France, *Torbellino II_Whirlwind II* at Galeria Habana, *Again and Again* curated by Adrian Paci at Galleria La Veronica Arte Contemporanea, Italy, and *Medium Religion* curated by Boris Groys and Peter Weibel at ZKM, Karlsruhe and Model Art and Niland Gallery, Sligo. In 2012 she will participate in the 2012 Havana Biennial. Susana's elaborately staged productions feature herself as a corpse and draw from a long tradition of self-portraits which serve as a memento reaching beyond death in attempt to keep the artist's memory as vivid as possible. By contrast, Susana's photographs immortalize a materialistic truth by simultaneously addressing the objectifying glance of the photographic camera, and the moment of death in the production of an image as well as of a corpse.

Danny Volk was born in Akron, Ohio in 1979. He earned a BA in Theater Studies from Kent State University (2006) in Ohio. Volk's videos and performances explore the dramaturgical structures of interactions in public and domestic settings. In these explorations, he asks his viewers to buy into both the theatrical nature of the performance and the reality from which it draws, eliciting questions of authenticity and belief. Exploring the management of an identity, Volk takes on roles that are on the periphery of his own understanding of self often buying into his own process and going native. Volk has exhibited at High Concept Laboratories (Chicago), Random House (Chicago) and experimental spaces throughout Chicago. Volk lives and works in Chicago, IL.

Grethell Rasúa graduated with a bachelor's Gold of the National Academy of Fine Arts San Alejandro in 2004 and the Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA) in the Faculty of Fine Arts in Havana, in 2009. She completed two years in the Department of Art Practice (2005-07), founded and directed by Tania Bruguera. In 2009 finished a Bachelor of Arts in PP.Sch. Cuba, attached to Columbus University of Veracruz, Mexico. She has had numerous exhibitions using different means of expression, audiovisual, video installations, performances, photographs, objects, environment, site specific and others. Her works have been displayed in museums, galleries, cultural centers, private residences, universities, video festivals in many countries including Cuba, Spain, Nicaragua, United States, Colombia, Mexico, Japan, Bolivia, Ecuador, Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil among others. As a curator she has curated several group and solo exhibitions. She has received several grants and residencies from Cuba, Spain and Britain. She currently works as a Specialist in Visual Arts at the Centre for the Development of Visual Arts (HADC) in Havana.

Latham Zearfoss is an artist and cultural producer living and working in Chicago. His artwork often centers on reclaiming historical and mythological texts, and revising them to incorporate radical notions of love and sex, possibility and probability. His commitment to art and activism has also manifested in the creation of sporadic, temporary utopias like Pilot TV and Chances Dances. He is also a contributing editor to the new online quarterly Monsters and Dust.

Manuel Alejandro Hernández Cardona received the name of Manuel Alejandro Hernández Cardona on September 10th 1986 in Cuba. Because of his parents relationship and the environment he lived at home, he grew up as a very shy, isolated, disoriented and resistant boy. This kind of attitudes will nurture his artwork later on. When he was twenty-one years old he started to learn and discover the mechanism of domination and control used in his own country. Then he decided to take a stand and fight back the militarism. Everything changed when he realized that everything that he was doing was a result of the pressure of the powerful people. Now he has twenty-five years old, if you want to know exactly what he does? The best thing to do is ask him.

Links Hall Artistic Associates Program

Links Hall's Artistic Associates program was launched to great success in Spring 2005, when three Artistic Associates each curated a month-long series of performance, based on expertise in their respective fields. These programs enhanced the quality of our artistic programs, generated significant press coverage, expanded audiences for new work at Links Hall, and allowed the development of new project funding relationships. This program now takes place annually, and each year's Artistic Associates participate on Links Hall's Programming Committee to select the subsequent year's Artistic Associates.

Links Hall is located at 3435 N. Sheffield Avenue, Chicago, IL 60657—convenient to the BROWN, PURPLE & RED line stop at Belmont and RED line Addison stop in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood. For more information call **773.281.0824** or visit **www.LinksHall.org**

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