



## Cuban artists challenge perceptions in MIAD's First Person: Contemporary Cuban Art, open Gallery Night, January 17

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**Summary:** First Person: Contemporary Cuban Art, Jan. 17 – Feb. 15

Jan. 17: Panel Discussion, 1:30 p.m.; Gallery Talk, 7 p.m.; [miad.edu](http://miad.edu)

PRESS RELEASE

**MILWAUKEE...** Intervening in the everyday experience of art, architecture and our surrounding environments, Cuban-born artists **Yaima Carrazana**, **Alejandro Calzada Miranda**, **Felipe Dulzaides** and **Glenda León** re-imagine history, contemporary artistic practice and life in Cuba and abroad in [First Person: Contemporary Cuban Art, January 17 \(Gallery Night\) – February 15](#), on view in the Frederick Layton Gallery at the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design.

Glenda León, Yaima Carrazana and co-curator Cristin L. Cash, Ph.D. will give a **Panel Discussion Friday, January 17, 1:30 p.m.** León, who showed her work at the 55th Venice Biennale in 2013, and Carrazana, who engages in a highly informed yet frequently irreverent dialogue, will also give a **Gallery Talk Friday, January 17, 7 p.m.** Both the panel and the talk will be held in the Frederick Layton Gallery and are open to the public.

Curated by Lynn Tomaszewski, MIAD Chair of Foundations, and Cristin L. Cash, Ph.D., St. Mary's College of Maryland Associate Professor of Art History, First Person presents new and challenging work that is more than a survey of contemporary Cuban art, as the four diverse emerging and established artists come together with independent artistic, political and personal points of view.

**Working across a variety of media, including video, installation, sculpture, photography and painting, the artists' work is experimental, disruptive, mundane, playful, poetic and performative.**

Carrazana will create a site-specific work in the two weeks before the opening with help from MIAD students. Tomaszewski said, "The site-specific mural is done with a wink to political propaganda, and is a performative piece recontextualized for the gallery."

About the artists ([view their work](#)):

**Yaima Carrazana** – Trained initially as a painter in her native Cuba, Yaima Carrazana (born 1981) moves freely among various media, such as painting, video, performance and installation. Her work stands out for the way it engages in a highly informed yet frequently irreverent dialogue with the history and discourse of contemporary art. Creating work that explores the unstable limits between what is considered art and what is not, Carrazana weaves a delicate web of commentary on the contexts – political, cultural, gender-based – that determine the way art is received and interpreted in today's globalized art world. Her work has been exhibited across Europe, and in such countries as Japan and Israel. She currently lives and works in Amsterdam.

**Alejandro A. Calzada Miranda** – Alejandro A. Calzada Miranda, born in the old village of Remedios, Cuba in 1972, first studied art in Trinidad, and continued his studies at the Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA) in Havana, where he resides. His work is equally grounded in both fine art and stage design. Calzada Miranda owes much of his aesthetic to theater, most notably the role of theater in important community events, such as the celebration of Remedios. His awards include the Photography Scholarship *Raúl Corrales* in the Photo Library of Cuba, the Unesco Prize at the International Festival of Video Art Prize of Camagüey and *Luis Da Camera Cascudo* from Latino Parliament in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

MIAD First Person continued

**Felipe Dulzaides** – Since 1999, Felipe Dulzaides (born 1965) has been developing a body of work that investigates the cross-disciplinary possibilities of video, photography, installation, drawing, performance, sculpture and public art. Dulzaides' work is informed by ideas of post-conceptualism, chance, perceptual poetry, urbanism, architecture and the psychological effect of cultural displacement and politics. It happens within the gap between the two contexts he moves across: the U.S. (he resides in San Francisco) and Cuba. Dulzaides is the recipient of prestigious awards such as the Rome Prize. His work is included in notable public and private art collections, and internationally featured at contemporary art galleries, museums, biennials and public spaces.

**Glenda León** – Glenda León (born 1976) is a visual artist based between Havana and Madrid. Her work expands from drawings to video art, including installation, objects and photography. She is interested in interstices between visible and invisible, sound and silence, and ephemeral and eternal. León has presented her work at an individual level at 2013's [55th Venice Biennale](#), in France, in Montreal and across the United States and Europe. Events include the Glasgow International Festival of Contemporary Art (2006), the Havana Biennial (2003, 2006, 2009, 2012), and other group exhibitions in Brazil, Colombia, Austria, Spain, Italy, Australia, Holland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Mexico and Nepal. Her work is housed in several permanent collections, and she has been the recipient of significant prizes and residencies. [Read an interview](#) León gave discussing her work in the Venice Biennale.

MIAD gallery hours are Tuesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., 273 E. Erie St. Milwaukee. First Person is sponsored in part by the Mary L. Nohl Fund of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation.

Also on view during Gallery Night at MIAD, [The Brooks@20](#) celebrates 20 years of industrial design in the gallery, with a survey of past exhibitions, as well as contemporary design firms Brooks Stevens, Inc., Fiskars, GE Healthcare Global Design, Lunar and Master Lock. The Brooks@20 closes Saturday, February 8.

Save the Date! **It's a Major Deal!** is on view January 30 – March 1 in the Fourth Floor Gallery, showing “exciting and refreshing” juried works from sophomore and junior students representing all majors from MIAD's dynamic curriculum. There will be an Opening Reception and Award Ceremony Thursday, January 30, 5 – 7 p.m. in the Fourth Floor Gallery.

*At the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design, students driven to become creative professionals have the freedom to develop their talents beyond traditional boundaries while immersed in a transformative studio, academic and career-driven curriculum. On graduation, they join thousands of successful MIAD alumni whose talents are continuously in demand, and whose lifework is driven by a passion to inspire, problem solve and innovate for our economy and society.*