



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

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**DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS PRESENTS
TROPICS: A CONTEMPORARY VIEW OF BRAZIL, CUBA, AND HAITI
AT MUNICIPAL ART GALLERY**

Haiti is synonymous with poverty; Cuba with Fidel Castro, and Brazil with *carnaval* and *Samba*-dancing. But there's more. These countries, in addition to sharing African-based and Catholic influenced religions—*Voodoo, Santeria* and *Condomble*—are also repositories of rich, cultural resources in the realm of art. The exhibition *Tropics: A Contemporary View of Brazil, Cuba, and Haiti*, presents a select group of fifty artists from choice Caribbean and neighboring Latin American countries which share a history of slave-trading from Africa and European colonial masters with the purpose of jumpstarting a conversation on the relevance of the Caribbean—not as a vacation destination—but as fertile ground and overlooked hub for important contemporary art.

The exhibition, curated by Carine Fabius, will be held at DCA's Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery from January 17, 2008 to April 20, 2008. The free Opening Reception hosted by the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery Associates will take place on Sunday, January 20, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. with music provided by Charangoa. The Reception is free and open to the public.

It is said that Haiti is the biggest source for black art in the world (plastic arts) and its well-documented "primitive" art movement back in the forties influenced a multitude of artists whose works are highly sought-after and collected worldwide. But self-taught artists painting in the "primitive" style is merely the tip of the iceberg; and contemporary Haitian artists exhibiting in important cultural institutions worldwide is as commonplace as with artists from any other nation.

For several years, there has been a surge of interest in the United States and Europe in Cuban art—a source of great pride to the Castro regime, which supports its much-valued artists with numerous well-funded art universities throughout the island. But again, the phenomenon of Cuba's seemingly endless pool of artists, both celebrated and unknown, is of significance only to the relatively small number of those impassioned with the arts in general. Of the three, Brazil is the only country that does not offer up a long legacy of widely collected artists throughout the world. But its media image of dance-'till-you-drop festivities followed by relaxing days

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at the beach is buttressed by a strong, and getting-stronger-still art community which makes that image more realistically complete.

The idea behind this exhibition is *that's not all there is!* The general public is already familiar with and seduced by the charm and mystery surrounding these countries. Introducing their cultural significance through their art feels like the next logical step. Exhibited artists include: Alisa Adona, Carlos Alvarado, Jose Bedia, Elon Brasil, Luis Camejo, Mary Cary, Francois Cauvin, Marie-Helene Cauvin, Burton Chenet, Raul Cordero, Yankel Olea Delgado, Jose Delpe, Philippe Doddard, Edouard Duval-Carrié, Carlos Estevez, Eduardo Exposito, Louco Filho, Jose M. Fors, Aimee Garcia, Pascal Giacomini, Kim Gordon, Gory, Ernesto Guarrigua, Carmem Gusmao, Jade, Killy, Alicia Leal, Alejandro Leyva Rose Lobo, Gloria Longval, Pascale Monnin, Cirenaica Moreira, Juan Moreira, Olavo Multini, Parra, Julio Cesar Pena, Tim Pershing, Mira Petrunic, Adrian Pruna, Sandra Ramos, Glynnis Reed, Ivan Rodriguez, Kamyll Bulleaudy Rodriguez, Bakari Santos, Milenna Casseb Saraiva, Franceska Schifrin, Esterio Segura, Tammy Singer and Los Animistas, Gregory Vorbe, and Zaak

Conversations with the Artists, a series of talks with a selected group of artists and guest curator Carine Fabius, will give the audience an opportunity to engage directly with featured individuals in an informal setting.

Saturday, March 8, 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 12, 2:00 p.m.

ABOUT LAMAG

The Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery is a facility of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs and is located at 4800 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, 90027. Admission is free. The Gallery is open Thursday through Sunday, 12 noon to 5 p.m. Hours are extended to 9 p.m. on First Fridays. For general information, the public may call 323.644.6269.

ABOUT DCA

The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) serves as a leader to generate and support high quality arts and cultural experiences for Los Angeles residents and visitors. DCA also advances the social and economic impact of the arts and assures access to arts and cultural experiences through grant making, marketing, public and community arts programming, arts education, and creating partnerships with artists and arts and cultural organizations in every community in the City of Los Angeles.



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DCA grants \$3.4 million annually to over 300 artists and nonprofit arts organizations and awards the Artist-in-Residence (A.I.R.) and City of Los Angeles (C.O.L.A.) Individual Artist Fellowships. It provides arts and cultural programming in numerous Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Centers, theaters, and several arts and education programs for young people. The Department operates two historic monuments, directs public art projects, and manages the City's Arts Development Fee, Art Collection, and Murals Program. DCA markets the City's cultural events through development and collaboration with strategic partners, design and production of creative promotional materials, and management of the culturela.org website.

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