



FIRST FAENA FESTIVAL EXPLORES THE MYTHOLOGIES AND NARRATIVES OF 'AMERICA' AND COMMISSIONS NEW INSTALLATIONS AND PERFORMANCES THAT REFLECT THE MULTIPLICITY OF CULTURES, VOICES, AND PEOPLE ACROSS ITS PHYSICAL, CONCEPTUAL, AND POLITICAL BORDERS

Faena Festival During Miami Art Week (December 3-9, 2018): *This Is Not America* Features Commissions, Installations, Videos and Performances by Derrick Adams, Miya Ando, Cecilia Bengolea, Ana Teresa Fernández, Alfredo Jaar, Isabel Lewis, Boris Mitić, Luna Paiva, George Sánchez-Calderón, Tavares Strachan, Wu Tsang and boychild, and Agustina Woodgate.

Miami Beach, FL (October 31, 2018) – Faena Art announced today additional information on its commissions and programs for its inaugural multidisciplinary festival that will be presented during Miami Art Week. From December 3 through 9, 2018, the Faena Festival: *This Is Not America*, is keyed to Miami's enduring role as a port that welcomes migrants, refugees, and tourists from across the US and the Americas, and from countries throughout the world. The festival engages with the multiplicity of communities and cultures and the palimpsest of histories that have created the Americas while responding specifically to Miami as its hemispheric hub. All programming is free and open to the public.

"It has always been my dream to have our international cultural festival—a polyphonic platform to amplify voices and bring together practitioners from different artistic fields. Artists are not limited by geopolitical divides, so in this inaugural edition we've decided to explore diverse interpretations of the Americas, what unifies and ultimately connects us. Each future edition will have a unique theme, organized under a different concept that I personally find relevant and will develop working in collaboration with the world's most recognized and emerging talents, artists, thinkers and curators," stated Alan Faena.

A series of newly commissioned installations and performances will explore how we choose to define our sense of place in ways that encourage dynamic identities that transcend—and even resist—the imposition of physical, historical, and political borders. The Festival proposes a new curatorial format for presentation that occupies and engages the entire Faena District and extends beyond into public spaces of the city of Miami Beach as an experiential platform. The diverse venues of the Faena District Miami Beach will be activated, including the public areas of the street and beach; the Faena Hotel, including its theater and screening room; and Faena Forum – the OMA-designed cultural centerpiece of Faena District Miami Beach.

Organized by Zoe Lukov, Curator for Faena Art, *This Is Not America* is anchored by Alfredo Jaar's groundbreaking work, *A Logo for America*, and features major new commissions of installations and performances by renowned artists, including:

- Derrick Adams, who will create a site-specific immersive installation *America's Playground* that responds to the history and urban development of Miami in the Jim Crow south—especially in relation to ownership, real estate and urban planning in the neighborhood of Overtown. Drawing upon his research into the "Green Book" as well as Miami's role as "America's Playground," as well as overlooked urban development parallels, Adams will create an interactive

playground installation on the Faena Beach. The work is a reference to the playgrounds built for children in the historic black community of Overtown in Miami out of sight and underneath the freeways that were themselves built in the 1960s in the name of modernism and urban renewal, but that ultimately destroyed many of these same neighborhoods—a story that has repeated in many of America's cities.

- Miya Ando has been commissioned to create a large-scale work to transform the iconic Versailles hotel within the Faena District. *Sora Versailles* is her response to the building's history. Examining perception and permanence, the historic Versailles is transformed into the sky itself—the building disappears and becomes transparent at certain moments of the day while providing a cinematic and dramatic backdrop to city life at others.. The installation investigates one's relationship to time as sunset and sunrise are depicted on the four sides of the building. In Buddhism as well as in Quantum Physics, the fundamental nature of reality is that all constituent forms that make up the universe are temporary, a concept termed 'Sunyata.' Artist Miya Ando pays homage to the building's original architect Roy France's design philosophy of "let in the air and sun" as she wraps one of Miami's most iconic buildings in clouds.
- Cecilia Bengolea's site-specific installation and performance is created for the Faena Forum. In collaboration with guest choreographer Nancy St. Leger, a traditional Afro-Haitian dancer and teacher, the work was created over the course of many weeks in residence in Miami Beach. Playing with the collection, preservation and reinterpretation of traditional and folkloric dance genres, Bengolea places these forms in dialogue with contemporary and popular gestures. Bengolea's choreography hinges on the intersection of the sacred and profane, along with the interpolation of bodies, light, video and animation, towards a new kind of corporeal slang for the creation of new dialogue. Converting the Forum into contemporary temple, the choreography is an embodied language that here becomes the memory, the archive, and a proposal for the future.
- Isabel Lewis' sense-stimulating *Occasion* which includes Miami-based dancers, movers and musicians who will intervene an installation of locally sourced plants and trees in the Faena Forum amphitheater. This experiential performance allows the public to become part of the presentation through sensory stimulation. Entertaining viewers as guests, Lewis takes on the role of "host." Beginning in the street and moving into Faena Forum's amphitheater, Lewis's choreographed spectacle will end in Faena Forum's mezzanine and lead into Cecilia Bengolea's performance.
- Luna Paiva's *Room* for Faena Beach is an immersive environment that allows viewers to move within the remnants of a typical home or cabin—the bronze left overs memorialized: a chimney, plastic picnic chairs, curtains and carpet. Luna's shimmering objects are outside of time, a threshold between past and future, a reflection on a quickly fading symbols and mythology around of the American Dream. An archeological meditation, a vision of what remains after everything else is stripped away. These artefacts of comfort and solidity become almost like the contents of a shipwreck, or what is left after an apocalyptic storm.
- Tavares Strachan, winner of the 2018 Frontier Art Prize, has created a new neon work for the Faena District, *We Belong Here*. The phrase is an affirmation and a veiled question that in referencing the iconic neon signage of Miami's deco drive

is a reclamation of belonging that asks us to reimagine how we define place – and the this place in particular. Strachan’s neon signage contextualizes Miami as potentially *the* quintessential American city, given its role as a sanctuary or place of refuge for cultures and communities from around the world, and as a bridge between North and South and point of con

- Wu Tsang, a 2018 MacArthur Fellow, with long-term collaborator boychild have been commissioned to create a new site-specific performance-film project for the cabaret-style Faena Theater, that takes as its starting point the tensions of colonialism, diaspora and “otherness” particularly within the context of Miami’s opulence and decadence. Their performance for Faena Festival is conceived at the intersection of two long-term projects: a long-term feature film which is a ‘docufantasy’ about the performance artist boychild and the first in a series studies of Carmen. The live performance will be the culmination of one week in residence filming in the Faena theater and other ares of the Faena Hotel.
- George Sánchez- Calderón will show *American Falla*, a recreation of the Levittown house, the design of which in 1947 ushered in a new era of residential development and is considered to be the first suburban community built in the United States and a symbol of the aspirations for many individuals in the United States—emblematic of the “American Dream”. The tradition of *Las Fallas* stems from the 16th Century when Spanish carpenters would perform a spring-cleaning by setting ablaze the remnants of their workshops. The burning of the house is both a ritual and performance and will occur on December 4, the day associated with Saint Barbara, who in Yoruba traditions in Cuba is syncretized with the orisha Shango, god of thunder, lightning and war.
- Agustina Woodgate proposes a new crypto-currency for *Abya Yala* -- The name given to the Americas by the indigenous peoples of Panama and Colombia. Based on her investigations of the banknotes of the countries that make up the American continent—for example the queen of England appears in at least on 6 banknotes, a left over from a not-too-distant colonial era – Woodgate aims to explore the concept for a lost past or an imagined future nation in collaboration with a Native American graphic design collective.
- Boris Mitić’s *This is Not Nothing* –a collection of crowd-sourced shots of ‘nothing’ from around the world and Ana Teresa Fernández’s *Erasing the border (Borrando la frontera)*, documentation of her performance painting the metal dividers of the Mexican border wall, will both be included as part of special video sector to be exhibited in the Faena Hotel’s screening room throughout the week.

The 2018 Faena Festival takes Alfredo Jaar’s prescient 1987 work *A Logo for America*, as a point of departure for the exploration of America as a place, concept and myth. The piece will be presented on an LED jumbotron mounted on a boat navigating the Miami Beach shoreline. The monumental, text-and-and-image-based animated work, originally commissioned by The Public Art Fund for the giant electronic billboard marking the heart of New York’s Times Square, features the text “This is Not America” emblazoned across an outline map of the US that morphs into an outline of the entire western hemisphere from a variety of perspectives, including from South to North, challenging the traditional view of the geopolitical makeup of the Americas. For the Faena presentation, the boat (which generally interrupts lazy beach days with advertisements for bars and clubs) will travel the entire coastline of Miami Beach each day throughout the Festival so that the public work may be experienced by the entire city.

"This is Not America addresses America as concept more than a place, a contested and powerful idea that is greater than the waters and borders that frame it," noted Ms. Lukov. "Artists in the Festival have been invited to explore the concept of America as a myth and a narrative that has at times bound and divided us but ultimately has the power to unify. By occupying the interstitial zone between land and sea many of these site-specific installations seek to reimagine porous and transitional spaces as places of refuge and safe harbor that are representative of what our 'America' is and can become."

Works in the festival reflect the continuities and changes across the Americas—from South to North—based on shared histories and the interchange of contemporary cultures. "By challenging and subverting the monolithic and hegemonic idea of America and presenting it instead as a polyphonic place for a multiplicity of voices and movements, these artists reimagine what America can and should be; as well as who we are, where we have come from, and who we want to become," Lukov said. "Miami as the iconic city of the Americas—its gateway, its sanctuary, and its playground—is the ideal place from which to speak to new ways of defining ourselves our communities, and our global identity."

#### Event Details

Faena Festival

Faena District Miami Beach

Installations and performances will be at various locations throughout the Faena District and Miami Beach, including, but not limited to: Faena Beach, Faena Forum, Faena Theater, and more.

Monday, December 3, 2018 – Sunday, December 9, 2018

Grand opening performances by Cecilia Bengolea, Isabel Lewis, Wu Tsang and boychild on Monday, December 3.

All programming is free and open to the public.

#### SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES

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#FaenaFestival #ArtBasel #MiamiArtWeek

#ThisIsNotAmerica

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@boychild #AlfredoJaar #IsabelLewis @ArtBasel

[www.faenafestival.com](http://www.faenafestival.com)

#### About Faena Art

FAENA ART is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that houses and produces post-disciplinary and time-based experiences. A catalyst for innovative, site-specific, and immersive creative practices, FAENA ART is a transformative bridge across the Americas, between the south and the north, the popular and the experimental, activism and research. FAENA ART fosters new models for performative social

interaction that transcend the traditional boundaries of art, science, philosophy, and social practice.

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