

FLORENCIO GELABERT SOTO

Florencio Gelabert Soto is a Cuban sculptor whose practice has, for more than four decades, reframed sculpture through an architectural language of fracture, ruin, and displacement. Working across sculpture, installation, drawing, and public projects, he uses marble, granite, steel, ceramics, wood, and found materials to stage a sustained dialogue between nature and the built environment. Critics have described the work as a form of expressive minimalism in which formal restraint carries psychological, ecological, and historical weight.

From his early exhibitions in Havana in the 1980s to later projects such as *The Sound of the Forest*, *Journeys: A Dialogue with Time*, *Displacements*, and *Dialogues*, Gelabert has returned to themes of nostalgia, urban erosion, ecological anxiety, loneliness, violence, and the unstable afterlife of architecture. His work has been exhibited widely across the United States, Latin America, Europe, and Africa, and is held in major public and private collections including Pérez Art Museum Miami, the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, the Museum of Latin American Art, the Neuberger Museum of Art, and the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes in Havana.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 Dialogues. Zapata Gallery, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2019 Displacements. Ideobox, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2015 Journeys: A Dialogue with Time: Recent Works by Florencio Gelabert. Museum of Art + Design at Miami Dade College, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2011 Huellas. Galería Villa Manuela, Havana, Cuba.
- 2010 Cracks & Waste. Urban Views, Praxis International Art, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2009 Birth & Accumulations. Chashama Art Gallery, New York, New York, USA.
Lines & Concavities. RL Art Projects, New York, New York, USA.
- 2008–2009 Intersections. The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum at FIU, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2006 Personal Landscapes. Magnan Emrich Contemporary, New York, New York, USA.
- 2002 Works in Captivity. Ambrosino Gallery, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2000 Vacío. Galería Fernando Serrano, Moguer, Spain.
Paradise O. Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden.
- 1999 Herramientas. Galería Euroamericana, Caracas, Venezuela.
New Works. Joan Guaita Art, Palma de Mallorca, Spain.
The Sound of the Forest. Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Jacobo Borges, Caracas, Venezuela.
- 1998 The Sound of the Forest. Ambrosino Gallery, Miami, Florida, USA.
The Sound of the Forest. Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Panamá, Panama City, Panama.
Florencio Gelabert: Beyond Violence. Museum of Art, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA.
- 1997 The Seasons. INTAR Latin American Gallery, New York, New York, USA.
- 1996 Breaking Ground. Lehigh University Art Galleries, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, USA.
- 1994 The Uselessness of Use / La inutilidad del uso. Fredric Snitzer Gallery, Coral Gables, Florida, USA.
Compression II. Centro Cultural de Tijuana, Tijuana, Mexico.
- 1993 Recent Sculptures. Fredric Snitzer Gallery, Coral Gables, Florida, USA.
Tormented Wood. Leonora Vega Gallery, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
Source. Snitzer/Arregui Arts, New York, New York, USA.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024** Doral International Art Fair. Doral Cultural Arts Center, Doral, Florida, USA.
In Plain Sight. Curated by Sylvie Daubar, Saladrigas Art Gallery, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2023** The Paving Roads for Latin American Art. Coral Gables Museum, Coral Gables, Florida, USA.
- 2022** Blue Print. Bridge Red Studios, North Miami, Florida, USA.
Ocho Cubanos Ahora. Artes de Cuba Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA.
Contemporary Caribbean: Unearthing Dialogues. Curated by Jorge L. Gutierrez, DCS Contemporary, Karlsruhe, Germany.
- 2021** The Parallel Utopia. Dream Cities in Cuba (1980–1993). Es Baluard Museu d'Art Modern i Contemporani de Palma, Palma, Spain.
- 2020** Matter of Mind. Curated by Stefany Ferguson, The Olympia Projects, New York, New York, USA.
- 2019** Utopías Paralelas. Palau de la Virreina, Barcelona, Spain.
The African Diaspora in the World. Museum of Black Civilization, Dakar, Senegal.
- 2016** Destination: Latin America. Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase, New York, USA.
- 2015** Behind the Wall Project. 12th Havana Biennial, Havana, Cuba.
- 2014** Caribbean: Together Apart. Luciano Benetton Collection, Treviso, Italy.
- 2013** From Africa to the Americas. The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum, Miami, Florida, USA.
The Land Before and After Time. Accola Griefen Gallery, New York, New York, USA.
Behind the Wall. 8th Floor Gallery at the Rubin Foundation, New York, New York, USA.
Disrupted Nature. Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach, California, USA.
Frieze Art Fair. ArtNexus stand, New York, New York, USA.
Waiting for the Idols to Fall. 8th Floor Gallery, New York, New York, USA.

- 2012** Miami Art Basel. ArtNexus Editions, Miami, Florida, USA.
Pinta Art Fair / NY. Cuban Arts Project, New York, New York, USA.
Artistic Practices and Social Imaginaries. 11th Havana Biennial, Havana, Cuba.
Esa vara. Modernidad y emplazamiento. Virginia Perez-Ratton Collection, MADC, San José, Costa Rica.
Fifty Years of Latin American Art: Selections from the Neuberger Museum of Art. 1285 Art Gallery, New York, New York, USA.
- 2011** Observed, Imagined and Recreated. UAI Awards Exhibition, Longwood Gallery, New York, New York, USA.
- 2010** Case Studies from the Bureau of Contemporary Art. New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA.
UTROPICOS. XXXI Bienal de Pontevedra, Galicia, Spain.
Paper Jam 2010. Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College SUNY, Purchase, New York, USA.
Contemporary Latin American Art from the Collection. Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College SUNY, Purchase, New York, USA.
- 2009** Here!. NoMAA Gallery, New York, New York, USA.
Exquisite Corpse. Paul Robeson Galleries at Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA.
X AÑOS de TEOR/eTICA. Fundación ARS TEOR/eTICA, San José, Costa Rica.
Visiones: 20th Century Latin Art: Selections from the Nassau County Museum of Art. Boca Raton Museum of Art, Boca Raton, Florida, USA.
- 2007** The (S) Files Biennial. El Museo del Barrio, New York, New York, USA.
Art Made for Living. M4 Project, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2006** Scope London. Magnan Emrich Contemporary stand, London, UK.
Pulse New York. Magnan Emrich Contemporary stand, New York, New York, USA.
Art Expressions. Matheson Hammock Park, Division of Arts and Culture, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2005** Art Basel Miami Beach. Ambrosino Gallery stand, Miami Beach, Florida, USA.
- 2004** Intersections / Intersecciones. Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut, USA.
- 2003** Dreidimensional. Galerie Aus Baden-Wuntemberg at Adriana Schmidt Galerie stand, Berlin, Germany.
Muestra'2. Mexico City, Mexico.
ARCO'03. Adriana Schmidt Galerie stand, Madrid, Spain.
- 2001** IV Bienal Barro de América. Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas, Venezuela.
Inside and Out: Contemporary Sculpture, Video & Installations. Bass Museum of Art, Miami Beach, Florida, USA.

- 2000 Uppsala Contemporary Art Biennial. Uppsala, Sweden.
- 1998 Mesótica III. Museo de Arte y Diseño Contemporáneo, San José, Costa Rica.
III Bienal Barro de América. Museo Alejandro Otero, Caracas, Venezuela.
- 1996 Cuba Siglo XX: Modernidad y Sincretismo. Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain.
- 1994 To the Encounter of the Others. Documenta Hall, Kassel, Germany.

PUBLIC PROJECTS / COMMISSIONS

- 2023 Finalist, Doral Branch Library Project. City of Doral, Florida, USA.
- 2019 The Paraiso Sculpture Park at Gran Paraiso on the Bay, Florida, USA.
- 2015 Garden of the Arts. City of Hialeah, Florida, USA.
- 2008 FIU Sculpture Garden at Biscayne Campus. North Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2006 Miami Dade College, Kendall Campus. Miami, Florida, USA.
West Harlem Art Fund & Magnan Emrich Projects. New York, New York, USA.
Bellevue Sculpture Exhibition. Bellevue Art Commissions, Bellevue, Washington, USA.
Sculpture Key West. Fort Taylor State Park, Key West, Florida, USA.
- 2001 Bass Museum of Art. Miami Beach, Florida, USA.
- 1994 Centro Cultural de Tijuana. Tijuana, Mexico.
- 1992 Absolut Vodka sculpture commissioned for international campaign. New York, New York, USA.
- 1991 Sculpture commissioned for Pizza Hut campaign. Miami, Florida, USA.
- 1990 First International Encounter of Sculpture in Metal, UNAM. Mexico City, Mexico.
- 1989 Socrates Sculpture Park. New York, New York, USA.
- 1988 First Prize commission at EXPOCUBA. Havana, Cuba.
- 1986 Environmental sculpture commission. Topes de Collantes, Sancti Spíritus, Cuba.
- 1985 Machete Monument / Monumento al movimiento millonario. Güines, Havana, Cuba.

AWARDS / GRANTS

- 2024 Miami-Dade Individual Artists (MIA) Grant Program. Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2023 Miami-Dade Individual Artists (MIA) Grant Program. Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2015 Cintas Fellowship finalist. Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2012 Chashama Art Studios Fellowship. New York, New York, USA.
- 2011 Northern Manhattan Artist Alliance Grant. New York, New York, USA.
- 2008 Manhattan Community Arts Grant, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. New York, New York, USA.
- 2005 CAF Award. New York, New York, USA.
Reed Foundation Fellowship. New York, New York, USA.
- 2000 Uppsala Artist Projects. Uppsala, Sweden.
- 1998 MFA Graduate Assistantship. University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, USA.
- 1996 Graduate Fellowship. University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, USA.
- 1993 Miami Recovery Fellowship. Florida, USA.
Individual Artist Fellowship. Florida, USA.
- 1990 First International Contest of Wood Sculpture. Toluca, Mexico.
- 1989 Artist residency, Socrates Sculpture Park International Program. New York, New York, USA.
Mention, II Salón Nacional de Pequeño Formato. Las Tunas, Cuba.
- 1988 First prize, Consejo Nacional para el Desarrollo de la Escultura Monumentaria y Ambiental (CODEMA), EXPOCUBA. Havana, Cuba.
- 1987 Mention in sculpture, Concurso 13 de Marzo. Galería L, Havana, Cuba.
- 1983 Mention in sculpture, Salón de la Ciudad. Centro Provincial de Artes Plásticas y Diseño, Havana, Cuba.

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

- Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, Florida, USA.
- Fondazione Benetton, Treviso, Italy.
- Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach, California, USA.
- Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana, Cuba.

- Vin & Sprithistoriska Museet, Stockholm, Sweden.
- Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, Purchase, New York, USA.
- The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, Florida International University, Miami, Florida, USA.
- Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami, Florida, USA.
- Bass Museum of Art, Miami Beach, Florida, USA.
- New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA.
- Lowe Art Museum, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, USA.
- Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Panama City, Panama.
- Museo de Arte y Diseño Contemporáneo, San José, Costa Rica.
- Everhart Museum, Scranton, Pennsylvania, USA.
- Cisneros Collection, Caracas, Venezuela.

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- Mateo, David. "Florencio Gelabert; Desmaterialización de la Escultura." *Artcronica*, 2019.
- Birbragher, Francine. "Florencio Gelabert." *ArtNexus*, 2019.
- Batet, Janet. "Florencio Gelabert, Museum of Art + Design, Freedom Tower." *ArtNexus*, 2015.
- Cerejido, Elizabeth. "Between Materiality and Metaphor: Florencio Gelabert's Sculptural Journeys." *Art OnCuba*, 2015.
- Tschida, Anne. "Art journeys through the decaying worlds of Miami and Cuba." *Knight Arts*, 2015.
- Falconer, Morgan. "The (S) Files 007." *Art News*, 2007.
- Cotter, Holland. "Art in Review: Florencio Gelabert." *The New York Times*, 1997.