

RUBÉN TORRES LLORCA

Rubén Torres Llorca is a foundational figure in the generation that reshaped Cuban art in the late 1970s and 1980s. Working across painting, drawing, collage, sculpture, photography, and installation, he builds psychologically charged situations in which narrative, irony, and material intelligence remain in active tension. Literature and cinema have long informed his practice, but his works resist fixed lessons, preferring ambiguity, allegory, and open-ended dialogue.

Educated at San Alejandro and the Instituto Superior de Arte in Havana, Torres Llorca participated in *Volumen I*, the landmark 1981 exhibition widely understood as a turning point in contemporary Cuban art. After periods in Havana and Mexico City, he settled in Miami, where he has continued to develop a body of work grounded in memory, skepticism, and the uneasy overlap of the personal and the political. Selected solo exhibitions include *El Museo del Barrio*, *Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico*, the *Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum*, and *Juan Ruiz Gallery*.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 Ya casi no escucho el canto de las sirenas. Conde Contemporary, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2015 Better Days Ahead. Juan Ruiz Gallery, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2012 One of Us Can Be Wrong and Other Essays. Juan Ruiz Gallery, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2011 El bosque no es lo mismo sin el lobo. Now Contemporary Art, Wynwood, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2010 Figure 1 to 20. Now Contemporary Art, Wynwood, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2009 Los peores hombres cuentan las mejores historias. Praxis, New York, New York, USA.
- 2008 The Names Have Been Changed to Protect the Guilty. Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
Manual de Carpintería China. Praxis, Wynwood, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2007 Una historia para niños basada en un crimen real. Centro Cultural Español, Coral Gables, Florida, USA.
- 2006 Pagador de Promesas. Galería Thomas Cohn, São Paulo, Brazil.
Easy to Build / Modelo para Armar. Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2005 If They Pay You for It. Praxis International, Coral Gables, Florida, USA.
- 2004 Take This Waltz. Byron Cohen Gallery, Kansas City, Missouri, USA.
- 2002 Si pierdo la memoria qué pureza. Locust Projects, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2001 Secret Life. Gary Nader Fine Arts, Coral Gables, Florida, USA.
- 2000 Last News from Havana. Byron Cohen Gallery, Kansas City, Missouri, USA.
- 1999 Better Death Than Alive. Freites Revilla Gallery, Coral Gables, Florida, USA.
- 1998 So Quiet in Here. El Museo del Barrio, New York, New York, USA.
Gotan. Der Brücke, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
Fill in the Blanks. Monique Knowlton Gallery, New York, New York, USA.
- 1997 All My Lies Are Wishes. Joyce Goldstein Gallery, New York, New York, USA.
The Pledge. Fred Snitzer Gallery, Coral Gables, Florida, USA.
- 1996 Eight Visits to the Artist's Studio. Miami Art Museum, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 1995 The Anchor. Marta Gutierrez Fine Arts, Miami Beach, Florida, USA.
- 1993 Casa Tomada. Expositum, Mexico City, Mexico.
- 1992 Ya no te espero. Ninart, Centro de Cultura, Mexico City, Mexico.
- 1990 La trampa. Centro Cultural Ciudad de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
La soledad. Museo Benjamín Carrión, Quito, Ecuador.
- 1989 Una mirada retrospectiva. Centro de Artes Plásticas Luz y Oficios, Havana, Cuba.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 1988 El hombre incompleto. Galería Habana, Havana, Cuba.
- 1987 A semejanza nuestra. Centro Cultural Capilla Británica, Mexico City, Mexico.
Estrictamente personal. Fototeca de Cuba, Havana, Cuba.
- 1985 Tus bacterias y las mías. Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City, Mexico.
Remedio para el mal de ojo. Galería Collage, Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico.
El lado de la sombra. Universidad Veracruzana, Jalapa, Mexico.
- 1983 Cine del hogar. Galería Habana, Havana, Cuba.
- 1980 Fumar daña tu salud. Casa de la Cultura de Plaza, Havana, Cuba.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Por América. Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, Arizona, USA.
Unlikely Assemblages. Annex Gallery, NCECA, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA.
- 2022 You Know Who You Are. El Espacio 23, Miami, Florida, USA.
Dialogues Vol. 1. Collegium, Madrid, Spain.
Los sueños de la mujer araña. Fundación Larivière, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
Por América. El Museo del Barrio, New York, New York, USA.
- 2021 Timelines in Cuban Art. JCC Feldenkrais / Hanono Cultural Center, Ojus, Florida, USA.
Group exhibition. Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, Fort Myers, Florida, USA.
- 2020 Lucky 13. Conde Contemporary, Coral Gables, Florida, USA.
- 2019 Un largo recorrido. Espacio ArtNexus – Estudios Las Nieves, Bogotá, Colombia.
- 2017 Five Avant-Garde Visions. Raw Space, Vero Beach, Florida, USA.
- 2016 Go Figure! Fred Snitzer Gallery, Wynwood, Miami, Florida, USA.
ConTexto. Museo Universidad de Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia.
Iconocracia. Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain.
- 2015 Un ruso, un chino y un cubano hicieron una exposición. Aluna Art Foundation, Miami, Florida, USA.
Up With Diversity. Juan Ruiz Gallery, Miami, Florida, USA.
A & V. Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, Miami, Florida, USA.
Making Circles in the Water. Juan Ruiz Gallery, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2014 Playgrounds / Reinventar la plaza. Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain.
Permanent Collection. Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, Florida, USA.
22. Galería La Acacia, Havana, Cuba.
440972 Miles. Diana Lowenstein Gallery, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2013 Short Stories. Juan Ruiz Gallery, Miami, Florida, USA.
It's Only a Paper Cut. Juan Ruiz Gallery, Miami, Florida, USA.
Ways of Worldmaking. Miami Dade College, Miami, Florida, USA.
CINTAS Foundation Fellowship Finalists Exhibition. Freedom Tower, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2012 Memorias del oikos: La casa re-presentada. Centro Cultural Español, Miami, Florida, USA.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 The 2011–2012 CINTAS Foundation Fellowship Award Winners. Miami Dade College, Miami, Florida, USA.
Declaring Independence. Phoenix Institute of Contemporary Art, Phoenix, Arizona, USA.
- 2010 Recent Acquisitions. El Museo del Barrio, New York, New York, USA.
Unbroken Ties: Dialogues in Cuban Art. Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, Michigan, USA.
Parallel Currents. Snite Museum of Art, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, USA.
Recent Acquisitions from the Latin American Art Collection. Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA.
- 2009 Cuban Avant-Garde. Lowe Art Museum, Coral Gables, Florida, USA.
Arte TransCubano. Galería Chico Zapote, Mexico City, Mexico.
Irreversible. Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation, Miami, Florida, USA.
Aesthetics & Values. Green Library, Florida International University, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2008 Visiones: 20th Century Latin American Art. Boca Raton Museum of Art, Boca Raton, Florida, USA.
Cuban Avant-Garde. Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, Florida, USA.
- 2007 M4. Design Miami / Buena Vista Building, Miami, Florida, USA.
Cuban Avant-Garde. The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, Florida, USA.
Witches, Bitches and Saints. Miami Dade College, Kendall Campus, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2005 Iturria / Torres Llorca. Praxis International, Coral Gables, Florida, USA.
Realidades Alteradas. Art Center South Florida, Miami Beach, Florida, USA.
Go Figure! Lowe Art Museum, Coral Gables, Florida, USA.
Beyond All That. World Arts Building, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2004 Permanent Collection. Nassau County Museum of Art, Roslyn Harbor, New York, USA.
Tres. GDS Gallery, San José, Costa Rica.
- 2003 Visual Poetics. Miami Art Museum, Miami, Florida, USA.
American Art Today. Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, Miami, Florida, USA.
Thinking Outside the Sphere. Museum of Science, Miami, Florida, USA.
Inside the Paper. Centro Cultural Español, Coral Gables, Florida, USA.
- 2002 Art from Cuba. State Russian Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia.
Miami Currents. Miami Art Museum, Miami, Florida, USA.
Contemporánea. Coconut Grove Convention Center, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2001 Drawing Conclusions. Design Miami / Buena Vista Building, Miami, Florida, USA.
Robot. Fred Snitzer Gallery, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 2000 Departing Perspectives. Site-specific installations, Brickell Avenue, Miami, Florida, USA.
En Casa. Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana, Cuba.
Palmas Reales y Vitrales. Alonso Fine Arts, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 1999 The Present Absent. Museo Palacio Imperial, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
The Dream Collection. Miami Art Museum, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 1998 The Narrative Art. Lowe Art Museum, Coral Gables, Florida, USA.
IX Muestra de Pintura y Escultura Latinoamericana. Galería Espacio, San Salvador, El Salvador.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 1997 Breaking Barriers. Museum of Art, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA.
Cultural Consortium Fellowship Exhibition. Miami Art Museum, Miami, Florida, USA.
- 1996 Modernismo y sincretismo. Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain;
Centre d'Art Santa Mònica, Barcelona, Spain.
Defining the 90's. Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami, Florida, USA.
- 1994 13 artistas cubanos contemporáneos. Centro de Arte Euroamericano, Caracas, Venezuela.
Abril. Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana, Cuba.
- 1992 Von Dort Aus: Kuba. Ludwig Forum für Internationale Kunst, Aachen, Germany.
La década prodigiosa. Museo del Chopo, Mexico City, Mexico.
Las Américas. Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil.
- 1991 El collage contemporáneo. Centro Cultural Arte Contemporáneo, Mexico City, Mexico.
15 artistas cubanos. Galería Nina Menocal, Mexico City, Mexico.
Homenaje a Andy Warhol. La Agencia, Mexico City, Mexico.
- 1990 Kuba OK. Städtische Kunsthalle, Düsseldorf, Germany.
Arte contemporáneo en Cuba. Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Seville, Spain.
- 1989 XX Bienal de São Paulo. São Paulo, Brazil.
El juego de pelota. Collective performance, Havana, Cuba.
El objeto esculpado. Havana, Cuba.
III Bienal de La Habana. Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana, Cuba.
No por mucho madrugar amanece más temprano. Fototeca de Cuba, Havana, Cuba.
Neofotografía / Postfotografía. La Agencia, Mexico City, Mexico.
- 1988 Signs of Transition. Museum of Contemporary Hispanic Art, New York, New York, USA.
Raíces en acción. Museo Carrillo Gil, Mexico City, Mexico.
- 1987 XII Drawing Biennial. Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France.
Cuban: Magic Realism. Peatonville Gallery, London, United Kingdom.
- 1986 II Bienal de La Habana. Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana, Cuba.
Maestros de hoy. Galería Nacional de Arte Contemporáneo, San José, Costa Rica.
- 1985 Cuban Photography. Regent Street Gallery, London, United Kingdom.
- 1984 I Bienal de La Habana. Pabellón Cuba, Havana, Cuba.
Young Artist of Today. State Museum of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan.
XV Muestra Internacional de Pintura. Cagnes-sur-Mer, France.
- 1983 Sano y sabroso. Galería L, Havana, Cuba.
III Bienal Iberoamericana de Arte. Museo Carrillo Gil, Mexico City, Mexico.
- 1982 Retrospectiva de arte joven. Salón Lalo Carrasco, Havana, Cuba.
Premio de Fotografía Cubana. Galería 23 y M, Havana, Cuba.
Los novísimos cubanos. Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Panamá, Panama City, Panama.
- 1981 Volumen I. Galería de Arte Internacional, Havana, Cuba.

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

- Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana, Cuba.
- Fototeca de Cuba, Havana, Cuba.
- Ludwig Forum für Internationale Kunst, Aachen, Germany.
- El Museo del Barrio, New York, New York, USA.
- Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, Michigan, USA.
- Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, Florida, USA.
- Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, Miami, Florida, USA.
- Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami, Florida, USA.
- Lowe Art Museum, Coral Gables, Florida, USA.
- Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, Florida, USA.
- Bass Museum of Art, Miami Beach, Florida, USA.
- Miami Dade College, Miami, Florida, USA.
- Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA.
- Nassau County Museum of Art, Roslyn Harbor, New York, USA.
- MUAC, Museo Universitario Arte Contemporáneo, UNAM, Mexico City, Mexico.
- Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, Mexico City, Mexico.
- Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Alfredo Zalce, Michoacán, Mexico.
- Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Latinoamericano, Managua, Nicaragua.
- ArtNexus Foundation, Bogotá, Colombia, and Miami, Florida, USA.
- The Estée Lauder Companies Corporate Collection, New York, New York, USA.
- El Espacio 23, Miami, Florida, USA.
- Fundación Larivière, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- Museum of Contemporary Art of the Americas, Miami, Florida, USA.

MAIN BIBLIOGRAPHY

- K. Mitchell Snow, "Spinning Tales, Creating Encounters," *Américas*, Sept.–Oct. 2009, vol. 61, no. 5.
- Francine Birbragher, "Crónica de un artículo anunciado," *ArtNexus* 66, 2007.
- Paul Clemence and Julie Davidow, *Miami Contemporary Artists*, foreword by Elisa Turner, Schiffer Publishing, 2007.
- Agustín Arteaga and Joel Weinstein, *Easy to Build / Modelo para Armar*, Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, 2006.
- Ricardo Pau-Llosa, *Time, Ambiguity and Symbol*, Praxis International, 2005.
- Lilia Fontana, "Interview With the Artist," *Arte al Día Internacional* 102, 2004.
- Luis Camnitzer, *New Art from Cuba*, University of Texas Press, 2003.
- Rubén Torres Llorca, *Gotan*, Der Brücke Editions, 1998.
- Juan Martínez, *Oral History Interview with Rubén Torres Llorca*, Smithsonian Archives of American Art, 1998.
- Carolina Ponce de León, *So Quiet in Here*, El Museo del Barrio, New York, 1998.
- Carlos Monsiváis and Iván de la Nuez, *Rubén Torres Llorca*, Ninart, Mexico City.
- Jürgen Harten and Abdel Hernández, *Kuba OK*, Städtische Kunsthalle Düsseldorf.

MAIN BIBLIOGRAPHY

- José Veigas-Zamora, Cristina Vives Gutiérrez, Adolfo V. Nodal, Valia Garzón, and Dannys Montes de Oca, *Memoria: Cuban Art of the 20th Century*, California/International Arts Foundation, 2001.
- The Miami Herald, "A View of Cuban Art," August 27, 1995.
- The Miami Herald, "Hone Your Sleuthing Skills at This Bilingual Exhibit," January 22, 2006.
- El Nuevo Herald, "Rubén Torres-Llorca se instala en el CFA," October 8, 1996.
- El Nuevo Herald, "Rubén Torres-Llorca: el brujo de la tribu," December 24, 2006.
- Christian Science Monitor, "Idealists once, these artists took different paths," July 15, 2005.