

REYNIER LEYVA NOVO

Reynier Leyva Novo is one of the most incisive conceptual artists of his generation in Cuba, a researcher and provocateur whose practice treats history as an archive to be unbound, dismantled, and re articulated against the grain of its official readings. Working across installation, sculpture, video, photography, and computational drawing, he mines legal documents, ideological texts, biographical fragments, and monuments themselves for the residues that state narratives suppress. His signature project *The Weight of History* (2014-2015) reduces the founding manifestos of five twentieth century totalitarian regimes to a single measurable quantity, the mass and volume of the ink used to print them, and in doing so exposes the material weight of ideology. Related series such as *Revolution is an Abstraction*, *A Happy Day*, *Patria, muerte y azúcar*, and the recent bust *Lo que es, lo que ha sido* carry the same forensic logic into questions of race, colonial memory, and the monumental sculpture of the Cuban Republic.

His work has been presented at the Liverpool Biennial, La Biennale di Venezia in 2011 and 2017, the XII and XIII Havana Biennials, the XII Shanghai Biennale, the Aichi Triennale, and the 6th Ghetto Biennale in Port au Prince, and in solo and museum projects at Galleria Continua, El Museo del Barrio, the Phoenix Art Museum, the Blaffer Art Museum, the Cummer Museum, MOCA North Miami, and the Brownstone Foundation. A founding member of the artist activist collective 27N, Novo relocated with his family to Houston in 2022 and was awarded the Pommery Prize at The Armory Show the same year; in 2023 he was named a Smithsonian Artist Research Fellow at the National Museum of African American History and Culture and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington DC. He is represented by El Apartamento, Sicardi Ayers Bacino, Galleria Continua, and Lisa Sette Gallery.
Born in Havana, Cuba, 1983.

Education: Academia de Bellas Artes San Alejandro, Havana, 2003; Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA), Havana, 2004-2008;

Cátedra Arte de Conducta, directed by Tania Bruguera, Havana, 2007.

Lives and works in Houston, USA.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026** Gut it, forget it. Invisible Houston. Transart Foundation for Art and Anthropology, Houston, USA.
- 2025** Algo deja quien se va, curated by Inés Plasencia Camps, in collaboration with the Department of Restoration of the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía. El Apartamento, Madrid, Spain.
The Weight of History. Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, Jacksonville, USA.
Una brisa en el trópico. El kilómetro, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2024** Le Mal Gardé. Gilbert Brownstone Foundation, Paris, France.
Former Present Today. Blaffer Art Museum, University of Houston, Houston, USA.
- 2023** Methuselah. El Museo del Barrio, New York, USA.
The Flowers of My Exile. Lisa Sette Gallery, Phoenix, USA.
Democratic Memory. A Happy Day. Terzo Piano Gallery and Bookshop, Washington DC, USA.
- 2022** Methuselah, traveling exhibition. El Museo del Barrio, New York; Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix; and Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami (MOCA), Miami, USA.
Solid Void. Sicardi Ayers Bacino, Houston, USA.
- 2020** The Weight of History. Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, Jacksonville, USA.
Lo que es, lo que ha sido. El Apartamento, Havana, Cuba.
- 2019** A Happy Day, XIII Havana Biennial, El Oficio, Havana, Cuba.
Patria, muerte y azúcar, XIII Havana Biennial, Novo Parraga Studio, Havana, Cuba.
- 2018** Castillo sin puertas. Apuntes legales para entender el tiempo. Fundación MARSO, Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2016** The Weight of Death. Galleria Continua, San Gimignano, Italy.
- 2015** The Weight of History, XII Havana Biennial, Complejo Morro-Cabaña, Havana, Cuba.
Open Studio Reynier Leyva Novo, collateral exhibition to the XII Havana Biennial, Novo Studio, Havana, Cuba.
- 2014** 9 Laws / The Weight of History. Galería Villa Manuela, Havana, Cuba.
- 2013** Para quebrar los muros. Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana, Cuba.
El deber de ser libres. Museo del Ron, Havana, Cuba.
El polvo, la sangre, el sueño común. Bildmuseet, Umea, Sweden.
- 2012** The Desire to Die for Others, XI Havana Biennial, Colegio de San Jerónimo, Havana, Cuba.
Novo Anniversary Collection. Bernice Steinbaum Gallery, Miami, USA.
- 2010** Deporte nacional. Salle Zéro, Alianza Francesa, Havana, Cuba.

- 2009** The Invisible Patriot, collateral exhibition to the X Havana Biennial. Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana, Cuba.
Por un trillo sin fin, collateral exhibition to the X Havana Biennial. Museo de Arte Colonial, Havana, Cuba.
Novo Anniversary Collection. Centro de Desarrollo de las Artes Visuales (CDAV), Havana, Cuba.
- 2003** Metáfora de la existencia. Parque Morro-Cabaña, Havana, Cuba.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025** Funny Business: Photography and Humor. Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, USA.
- 2023** So it appears. Institute for Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, USA.
- 2022** FotoFest Biennial. Silver Street Studios and Winter Street Studios, Houston, USA.
Sin Autorización: Contemporary Cuban Art. Wallach Art Gallery, Columbia University, New York, USA.
You Know Who You Are: Recent Acquisitions of Cuban Art from the Jorge M. Pérez Collection. El Espacio 23, Miami, USA.
- 2021** Low Visibility. Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, USA.
- 2019** Aichi Triennale. Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, Aichi, Japan.
6th Ghetto Biennale, Port au Prince, Haiti.
XIII Havana Biennial. Havana, Cuba.
- 2018** XII Shanghai Biennale. Power Station of Art, Shanghai, China.
Otro amanecer en el trópico. Reinbeckhallen, Berlin, Germany.
Ola Cuba! Gare Saint Sauveur, Lille, France.
Hole Maps. 601Artspace, New York, USA.
Diamante en bruto. Galleria Continua Habana, Havana, Cuba.
Caminando cerca. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Wifredo Lam, Havana, Cuba, and Japan Foundation, Tokyo, Japan.
- 2017** Tiempo de la intuición, Cuban Pavilion, 57th Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy.
Adiós Utopía. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA.
Wild Noise. The Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York, USA, in collaboration with the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana, Cuba.
On the Horizon: Contemporary Cuban Art from the Jorge M. Pérez Collection. Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), Miami, USA.
Deconstructing Liberty, A Destiny Manifested. Pacific Standard Time LA/LA, Los Angeles, USA.
Nature is Worth a Thousand Thoughts. Centro de Desarrollo de las Artes Visuales (CDAV), Havana, Cuba.
- 2016** Tatuare la storia. PAC, Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Milan, Italy.
Complicated Beauty: Contemporary Cuban Art. Tampa Museum of Art, Tampa, USA, in collaboration with the Bronx Museum of the Arts.
Masterworks from the Hirshhorn Collection. Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington DC, USA.
III Biennale Internationale de l'Art Contemporain, Casablanca, Morocco.
El espejo enterrado, III Montevideo Biennial, Montevideo, Uruguay.

- 2015** Global Positioning Systems. Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), Miami, USA.
Sights and Sounds: Cuba. The Jewish Museum, New York, USA.
Iconocracia. ARTIUM, Basque Centre-Museum of Contemporary Art, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain.
Detrás del muro, collateral exhibition to the XII Havana Biennial, Malecón de La Habana, Cuba.
Zona Franca, collateral exhibition to the XII Havana Biennial, Complejo Morro-Cabaña, Havana, Cuba.
Photography in Cuba Today. Chazen Museum of Art, University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA.
- 2014** Turn On. Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana, Cuba.
- 2012** El gran sur, I Montevideo Biennial, Montevideo, Uruguay.
Revolution Not Televised. Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York, USA.
Detrás del muro, collateral exhibition to the XI Havana Biennial, Malecón de La Habana, Cuba.
- 2011** Entre siempre y jamás, 54th Biennale di Venezia, Istituto Italo-Latinoamericano (IILA), Venice, Italy.
Coca-colonized. Museo MARTE, San Salvador, El Salvador.
- 2010** Touched. Liverpool Biennial, Liverpool, United Kingdom.
XXXI Bienal de Pontevedra. Museo de Pontevedra, Pontevedra, Spain.
- 2009** Confluencias Inside. Arte Cubano Contemporáneo II. National Hispanic Cultural Center, Albuquerque, USA.

AWARDS AND RESIDENCIES

- 2023** Smithsonian Artist Research Fellow, National Museum of African American History and Culture, and Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington DC, USA.
International Artist-in-Residence, Artpace, San Antonio, USA.
- 2022** Pommery Prize, The Armory Show, New York, USA.
- 2020** Selected in 20 in 2020: The Artists of the Next Decade in Latin America.
- 2017** Residency Unlimited (RU), endorsed by The Cuban Artists Fund and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Brooklyn, USA.
Orbital Residency Program, ArtistaxArtista and Consejería de Cultura de Santander, Santander, Spain.

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

- Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada.
- Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York, USA.
- Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation (CIFO), Madrid, Spain.
- Colección de Arte del Banco de la República, Bogotá, Colombia.
- Farber Collection, New York, USA.
- Fundación María Cristina Masaveu Peterson, Asturias, Spain.
- Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington DC, USA.
- Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, University of Oregon, Eugene, USA.
- Jorge M. Pérez Collection, Miami, USA.
- KADIST, San Francisco and Paris.
- MISOL Art Foundation, Bogotá, Colombia.
- Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana, Cuba.
- Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH), Houston, USA.
- Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), Miami, USA.
- Pizzuti Collection, Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, USA.
- Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, USA.