

Proyecto Arte del Fuego

A Cuban-American Cultural Exchange Project

Lescay



Oliva



Nelson



Lewis



Merrill



Wandless



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About the Residency Program

Proyecto Arte del Fuego (PAF) was envisioned in 2002 by ceramic artists Antonio Lewis (Cuba) and Catherine Merrill (United States). PAF's mission is to promote peace and friendship through the universal language of art. PAF offers Workshops, Master Classes, Residencies, Community Outreach and Exhibitions in the Ceramic Arts. PAF is sponsored by the Caguayo Foundation in Santiago de Cuba, the Estudio Galeria Los Oficios in Havana and the Casa Taller Pedro Pablo Oliva in Pinar del Rio.

Cuban Culture, particularly music, dance, literature and painting is a passionate interest of the international world. However, little is known about the unique and flourishing development of Cuban Ceramics. Ceramic artists in the First World have access to an abundance of equipment, technology and ready-made supplies. Cuban ceramists on the other hand create world-class art with severely limited access to raw materials and equipment often inventing new techniques that could influence the wider ceramic world.

International cultural exchange is important because, within his or her country, each artist achieves a particular level of development, with different techniques, a different vision, and a different synthesis of the work. When working together, each one contributes something unique and each one receives something he is lacking or is looking for from the others. By fulfilling the fundamental need of all artists, to create, to change and to grow, the Proyecto Arte del Fuego plays a significant role in an ever expanding world wide movement of artists stepping in where governments have failed, breaking down cultural barriers in order to bring creative people together.

Residency Highlights

1. Collaborative intensive ceramic residencies
2. Exhibitions
3. Community outreach events
4. Lectures, Master Classes and Demos
5. Hands On Workshops: Techniques explored in the workshops include working from live models, terra sigillata, paper clay, print making techniques on paper clay, colored clay, majolica glaze, raku, simple smoke firing, and the use of artists pastels and charcoal formulated for ceramics.

Locations

Previous residencies have been located throughout Cuba from Havana to Santiago. Other programs have been located in Canada, the United States, Argentina and Chile. A future residency center is planned for Jamaica and will open in 2008. Keep up-to-the-minute about our programs by checking the website at www.artoffire.org.



ANTONIO LEWIS, Nueva Gerona, CUBA

Lewis is a ceramic artist and specialist in industrial technology. He is a professor at the Instituto del Arte Wifredo Lam. He presents workshops on the theme of "Technology Serving Art" and has participated in residencies in Germany, Russia, Bulgaria, Guyana and Canada. He has participated in more than 50 national and international exhibitions and his award winning work is in the permanent collection of the Museo Nacional de la Ceramica in Havana, Cuba. Lewis was awarded the Premio Especial at the 2005 Amelia Pelaez Biennale in Havana. Co-director of the Proyecto Arte del Fuego 2002-present.

**CATHERINE MERRILL, San Francisco, CA USA**

Merrill's work explores the human figure and has been shown in over 150 national and international exhibitions. Publications include Ceramics Art & Perception, the Studio Potter, Neue Keramik, the NCECA Journal, Clay Times and Terracotta Magazine. She has been awarded grants from the Laila Art Fund, the Puffin Foundation and the NorthWest Ceramics Foundation. In 2005 she received the Jose Maria Heredia Medal for her contribution to Cuban Culture. She was a presenter at the 2003 NCECA Conference. Co-director of the Proyecto Arte del Fuego 2002-present. BFA, Kansas City Art Institute.

NELSON DOMINGUEZ, Havana, CUBA

Dominguez studied and taught at the Cubanacan National Art School. He was the Chair of the Painting department of the College of Arts (ISA) and is a member of the UNEAC and of the Asociacion internacional de Artistas Plasticas (AIAP.) He is a ceramist, painter, printmaker, sculptor and director of the Estudio Galeria Los Oficios in Havana. He has been awarded the Order for National Culture, the Alejo Carpentier Award and the Diploma of Honor of the Fuji Museum of Japan. His work has been shown in Japan, Cuba and Italy as well as being housed in the Museo Nacional de Arte Contemporanea in Havana.

**ALBERTO LESCAY, Santiago, CUBA**

Lescay is one of Cuba's leading sculptors of monumental bronzes as well as a painter, printmaker and ceramist. Lescay has participated in more than 200 national and international exhibitions and is a member of the UIAP (Union Internacional de Artes Plasticas) and the UNEAC (Union de Escritores y Artistas Cubanos) He is the President of the Fundacion Caguayo, Center for the Applied and Monumental Arts in Santiago. He holds an undergraduate degree from the Jose Joaquin Tejada Institute. His graduate degrees are from the ENA (Escuela Nacional de Arte) in Havana and the REPIN (Russian Institute of Art & Design) in Leningrad.

PEDRO PABLO OLIVA, Pinar Del Rio, CUBA

Oliva received his Degree in Fine Arts from the Escuela Nacional de Arte Cubanacan (ENA) in Havana. He is a member of the UNEAC and the Asociacion Internacional de Artes Plasticas (AIAP). Oliva is a painter, printmaker, sculptor and ceramist. Oliva has received many prestigious awards including the 1987 Distinguished Award of National Cuban Culture, 1994 Alejo Carpentier Medal of Honor and the 2006 National Fine Artist of the Year, the highest arts award in Cuba. In 1998 he founded the Casa Taller Pedro Pablo Oliva Project in Pinar del Rio, an ongoing research center for artists.

**PAUL WANDLESS, Minneapolis, MN USA**

Wandless received his MFA from Arizona State University and MA from Minnesota State University - Mankato. He utilizes the figure as a point of departure in clay sculptures, oil paintings, printmaking and digital prints. Wandless gives workshops across the U.S. and has taught at major universities. He is on the Board of Directors of the Clay Studio of Philadelphia and has served on the NCECA Board of Directors. His co-authored book, Alternative Kilns & Firing Techniques was released in March, 2004 by Lark Books. He has curated numerous exhibits.

MARGE d'WYLDE, San Francisco, CA USA

d'Wylde is a conceptual artist working in a variety of media. Her artistic themes include myth, visual seduction and culture. d'Wylde has participated in artist residencies and symposiums in the United States, Europe and the Caribbean. Focusing on non-traditional art venues, her work has been shown internationally in numerous festivals and exhibitions. d'Wylde has received awards from California Works, the National Cable Television Awards, Puppeteers of America, California Arts Council and the San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund.



PAF Project History

2007

1. Conference Presenter: International Opportunities for Artists: The Art of Fire: Cuba, Canada & The United States; organized by TransCultural Exchange, Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA
2. Argentina and Chile Residency Programs
3. Con Los Pobres de la Tierra: International ceramic tile mural project honoring the life and work of Jose Marti. Co-sponsor: the Sociedad Cultural Jose Marti. Exhibitions: Sancti Spiritus, Santiago de Cuba, Guantanamo City and Nueva Gerona, Isla de la Juventud. (2004-2007)
4. Somos, Two Person Exhibition: Catherine Merrill and Antonio Lewis, ACAA Gallery - Asociacion Cubana de Artistas y Artesanos, Matanzas, Cuba

2006

1. Cervar Studios, Varadero, Cuba - 2 day Raku Workshop
2. Beyond the Embargo-Cuba US Collaborations, Group Exhibition: Gallery One San Francisco, San Francisco International Arts Festival, San Francisco, CA
3. Casa-Taller Pedro Pablo Oliva - 4 Day Workshop, Pinar del Rio, Cuba
°Ceramics Exhibition, Galleria Telepinar

2005

1. ACAA Workshop - Studio of Pastor Fumero, Havana, Cuba
2. XIX Encuentro Internacional Terracota - Two Day Raku Workshop, Caguayo Foundation, Santiago, Cuba

2004

1. Cuban-Canadian Ceramic Art Collective hosted by Kwantlen University College, Surrey, B.C. Canada
 - Exhibition X del Fuego, Kwantlen College
 - Residency, Workshops, Lectures and Open Studios at Kwantlen College.
2. Cuban-Canadian Ceramic Art Collective
 - The Art of Fire, Cityscape, exhibition at Community Art Space, North Vancouver.
 - Community Outreach for Seniors, Century House House, New Westminster.

2003

1. Residency and Exhibition Arte y Fuego, Galeria Oriente, Santiago, Cuba.
2. NCECA Conference, San Diego, California, USA: Panel Presentation Beyond the Embargo & Cuba Collaborations, Exhibition of work by Cuban & American ceramic artists, Tres Gallery.
3. UNEAC (Union of Cuban Artists & Writers) - One day Workshop, Las Tunas, Cuba

2002

1. Residency and Exhibition Propuesta de Dos, Universal, Santiago, Cuba.

Contacts

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www.artoffire.org

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