

ARTE NO ES FÁCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Media Contact: artenoefacil@gmail.com
Marilyn Volkman and Danielle Paz
773.546.8194, 224.221.6620

Links Hall is pleased to present, **ARTE NO ES FÁCIL**
An exhibition series presenting the collaborative work of artists from Cuba and the United States
co-created by Marilyn Volkman and Danielle Paz

January – March 2012

Weekend One: January 20, 21 & 22

Weekend Two: February 17, 18 & 19

Weekend Three: March 16, 17 & 18

ARTE NO ES FÁCIL is a self-reflexive artwork based in creating relationships beyond pictures between Cuba and the U.S. through the manifestation of art. The current phase of the project is a three-week exhibition series exploring public presentation as a means of creating a more expansive discussion about art and political realities. Collaborative works produced by pairings of emerging artists from Havana and Chicago will be presented at Links Hall in Chicago from January – March 2012. For more information about the artists and the exhibitions visit www.artenoefacil.com

Weekend One:

Friday, January 20 at 8pm

Performances, screenings: Levi Enrique Orta Mendoza / Manol Gueorguiev

Presentation of project by co-creators: Marilyn Volkman / Danielle Paz

**Reception to follow hosted by Links Hall*

Saturday, January 21 at 8pm

Collaborative video works, social interventions and performance:

Ricardo Miguel Hernández / Casey Smallwood

Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara / David Cordero

Joseph Miller / Hamlet Lavastida

Sunday, January 22

Open for viewing at 5pm, Performances begin at 7pm

Sound, installation and performance:

Rigoberto Díaz Martínez / Brookhart Jonquil

Rebecca Mir / Nancy Martínez Delgado

Carlos Martiel Delgado Sainz / Erik Wenzel

*Tickets \$15 at the Door / \$12 Online / \$10 Students & Seniors – or pay what you can
Links Hall promotes “pay what you can” programming so all can attend.

Links Hall is located at 3435 N. Sheffield Avenue, Chicago, IL 60657
BROWN, PURPLE & RED line stop at Belmont and RED line Addison stop in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood
For more information call **773.281.0824** or visit www.LinksHall.org

ARTE NO ES FÁCIL is generously supported by The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Links Hall, The University of Chicago: Department of Visual Art, The Open Practice Committee, Arts Council, The Claire Kantor Foundation, Art Chicago, NEXT, FOTA, and many generous private donations.

Project Co-creator Bios:

Danielle Paz is a Chicago-based artist using video as the working-genesis to explore the boundaries of shared experience among people. Her work is inscribed in the physical application of film history and practice, media theory, and contemporary debates surrounding subjectivity to question the lasting power of images. Danielle received her MFA from the University of Chicago in Visual Arts and her BFA from Savannah College of Art and Design in Video, minoring in Photography. Danielle is full-time faculty teaching Photography and Video at Truman College in Chicago, IL. www.danpaz.com

Marilyn Volkman is a Chicago-based artist working with art as a strategy for reconfiguring our use of language, images and objects. Her work takes many forms including social interactions, video, object arrangements and quasi-documentary projects often developed in collaboration with specific groups, collective communities and organizations. Marilyn received her MFA in Visual Arts from the University of Chicago in 2009 and her BFA in Painting and Drawing from the University of Arizona in 2007. She currently teaches in the College of Art and Sciences at Roosevelt University. www.marilynvolkman.com

Participating Artist Bios for Weekend One:

Manol Gueorguiev, is a Bulgarian-born, Chicago-based artist working at the intersection of performance, architectural installation, design, and post-Socialist histories. His largely undocumented performance artworks emerge from long-term collaborations with diverse groups in the Chicago area and beyond. Building upon relationships nurtured over months or even years, Gueorguiev's artworks compel participants to examine their own involvements with political and social structures. Gueorguiev does not work towards a specific, calculated effect on the audience, instead desiring that spectators become active interpreters.

Levi Orta is a Cuban artist interested in subjective spaces resulting from the application of "power" in different sociopolitical contexts. His work simulates the giving up of hegemonic control while conforming his own ideology through an analysis enacted by his own interpretation. Levi graduated from the Instituto Superior de Arte of Havana in 2010, and from Cátedra de Arte de Conducta in 2009. Levi's solo exhibitions include the Fundación Ludwig and la Salle Zero. He has participated in multiple biennials including the Havana Biennial, Pontvedra, Liverpool, and Merco Sur. In recent years, Orta has participated in exhibitions such as "Spray" in the Kokerei Hansa Museum of Dortmund, "EXPLUM'11" in Murcia, "Per diem" in the center Betonsalon in Paris and in the "Salon of Contemporary Cuban Art". He has also received various awards including "Estudio 21" in Havana, "DES PACIO" from Costa Rica and the "SOMA" grant to study in Mexico.

Casey Smallwood was born in Springfield, Missouri in 1981. She earned a BFA in Photography from Missouri State University (2005) and an MFA in Visual Art from the University of Chicago (2008). Smallwood's work uses a process of reenactment and recontextualization of found narratives from mass culture to create moments of crisis centered around the interplay of self-awareness and self-deception in everyday intimacies. Her work is as much what people see or participate in as it is the things that went into the making of that experience; it's the directing and performance of the piece as much as it is the final product. Smallwood has exhibited nationally including the College Art Association's *ARTSpace Media Lounge*, New York City (2011), *High Concept Laboratories*, Chicago (2011), *Ohio University Art Gallery* (2010), *Eel Space*, Chicago (2009), *Lumpen's Version 9 Festival*, Chicago (2010), *DOVA Temporary Gallery*, Chicago (2008). Smallwood lives and works in Chicago, Illinois.

Ricardo Miguel Hernandez is a Havana-based artist whose recent work deals with concerns of the social reality in Cuba, using both photography and video. Through the form of documentary photography, Ricardo looks for the expressiveness offered by one viewpoint. While his video work, draws on the use of the communicative possibilities of film aesthetics through the study of cinematic narrative structures. Ricardo is a 2003 graduate of the Polytechnic of Crafts "Pablo de la Torriente Brau". In 2009 he graduated from the Instituto Superior de Arte in Havana, Cuba, in addition to Arte de Conducta, directed by Tania Bruguera.

Hamlet Lavastida is an interdisciplinary artist native from Havana. He produces his art in many different media including installation, painting and performance, and has exhibited around the world since 2006. Lavastida's performances and videos have been included in such events as the Liverpool Biennial, The Gwangju Biennale, Pontevedra Biennial, Nippon International Performance Art Festival, Espacio Aglutinador & the Tenth Havana Biennial. Lavastida has attained international recognition for his site-specifics installations that balance on the boundary between ephemeral art and social activism. A recurring theme in the work of Lavastida is the re-contextualization of the language and recent history of socialist societies.

Joe Miller, a native of Illinois, received his MFA from the University of Chicago in 2008 and has since been working as an interdisciplinary freelance artist pursuing a variety of projects in domestic and public venues throughout Chicagoland.

David Cordero lives and works in Chicago, IL. Recent solo exhibitions include *The Hedgehog's Dilemma* in 2011 and *Grind* in 2010, both at DOVA temporary, Chicago. Cordero has also had solo exhibitions at Galleria Ortiz in 2008 and *The Honey Factory* in 2002, both in San Antonio, TX. His work has been featured in *Hunter and Cook*, *The Chicago Tribune* and *The Art Newspaper*. Cordero received his MFA from the University of Chicago in 2010 and his BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2007.

Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara. The lie is nothing more than what we are all able to see or believe, it is the accumulation of realities that have been placed in our head. The truth is what others are not able to see or believe, therefore let's convert it into a lie they can believe and see.

Brookhart Jonquil was born in Santa Cruz, California in 1984, and grew up in Portland, Oregon and Tucson, Arizona. He earned his MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (2010) and a BFA and BA (Art History) from the University of Arizona (2007). He has exhibited in Miami, Florida; Chicago, Illinois; Tucson, Arizona; New York, New York; Athens, Greece; and Oriahovo, Bulgaria. His work is in the collections of the University of Arizona Museum of Art and the Oriahovo City Gallery of Art, Bulgaria.

Rigoberto Díaz Martínez was born on May 29, 1990 in Ciego de Avila, Cuba. He studied art at Academia Provincial Raúl Corrales and is currently enrolled in his second year of study in visual arts at the Instituto Superior de Arte, Havana, Cuba. Rigoberto has participated in several exhibitions, festivals and contemporary art fairs such as: International Biennial of Art in Bucaramanga, ELA-ETNIA VII, Ethnic VII International Fair of Contemporary Art in Latin America, Wallonie Espace, Salón Metropolitano de Artes Visuales, XI Salón y Coloquio de Arte Digital, III, IV Festival Internacional de Video Arte Camagüey, Luz a tu propia química III. Espacio Inventario. Fundación Ludwig de Cuba / Semana de Arte Contemporáneo, Espacio 0.

Rebecca Mir is a Chicago based artist, by way of Alaska and Maine. When she was too little to walk she was pulled around on a sled by a german shepherd called Namer. Her work is primarily concerned with the perplexing character of interactions with nature. More information can be found at www.rebeccamir.com

Nancy Martinez Delgado was born in Santiago de Cuba on April 11, 1986. Nancy completed her primary education in Santiago and then moved to Havana where she studied at a preparatory School of Arts and Crafts, and Sociocultural Studies at the University of Havana, Cuba. Nancy participated in Tania Bruguera's Arte de Conducta and exhibited in the Tenth Biennial of Havana, where she presented her work, *A Sequence Of*. Nancy is a member of the Hermanos Saiz Association (AHS) and the Cuban Association of Artisans and Artists (ACAA).

In October 2011 **Erik Wenzel** presented *If travel is searching & home what's been found* at the WerkStadt Kulturverein in Berlin, DE. Other recent solo exhibitions include *Live A Little, Live Ennui* at the Harold Washington College President's Gallery and *New 'N' Lonelier Laze* at DOVA temporary, Chicago in 2010. And *Belief in Doubt in Painting* at 65GRAND, Chicago in 2009. He is co-editor and contributor to "Internal Necessity: a reader tracing the inner logics of the contemporary art field" published by the Sommerakademie at the Zentrum Paul Klee and Sternberg Press.

Carlos Martiel Delgado Sainz is a graduate of the National Academy of Fine Arts "San Alejandro" in Havana, Cuba. He was a participant in ARTE DE CONDUCTA from 2008-2009 and he is currently pursuing studies at the Instituto Superior de Arte, Havana, Cuba. He has performed and exhibited his work at the Estonian Museum of Art and Design in Tallinn, Estonia, the Museum of Arts in Seattle, Washington, the Museum of Arts and Design (MAD) in New York, and Das Hochhaus Kokeiri Hansa Museum in Dortmund, Germany. Carlos has also participated in biennials including the 6th Liverpool Biennial, the XXXI Pontevedra Biennial, and the 10th Havana Biennial.

Links Hall Artistic Associates Program

Links Hall's Artistic Associates program was launched to great success in Spring 2005, when three Artistic Associates each curated a month-long series of performance, based on expertise in their respective fields. These programs enhanced the quality of our artistic programs, generated significant press coverage, expanded audiences for new work at Links Hall, and allowed the development of new project funding relationships. This program now takes place annually, and each year's Artistic Associates participate on Links Hall's Programming Committee to select the subsequent year's Artistic Associates.

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Links Hall is supported by Alphawood Foundation, AllState Insurance Company, Arts Midwest, Arts Work Fund for Organizational Development, The Boeing Company, The Chicago Community Trust, Cliff Dwellers Arts Foundation, The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust, Foundation for Contemporary Arts, Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, James S. Kemper Foundation, Lisa Dershin Creative Dance Fund, MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, National Performance Network, The Weasel Fund and many individuals.

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