



## RESIDENCIES

# FOCUS ON PUERTO RICO

Clocktower partnered with **MECA International Art Fair** and **Mana Contemporary Miami**, and to launch a residency program for **Puerto Rican** diaspora artists, and/or artists presently living and working in **Puerto Rico**.

In its entirety, "**Focus on Puerto Rico**" was a three-month residency intensive for emerging and mid-career **Puerto Rican** artists from **Puerto Rico** and its diaspora.

During **Miami Art Week**, visitors were invited to explore the **777 International Mall**, where FOPr artists staged happens, powerfully environmental studio installations, and more.

Participants: **Poncili Creación, Daniel Bejar, Ulrik López, Matotumba, Andria Morales, Elizabeth Robles, Yiyo Tirado, and Rafael Vargas Bernard.**

## ABOUT / PRESS RELEASE

Sept. 2017:

**Focus On Puerto Rico** aims to celebrate emerging, mid-career, and established **Puerto Rican** artists, providing a platform to garner broader access to, and understanding of **Puerto Rico's** contemporary social-political landscape—addressing issues facing the territory in relation to the **U.S.** policy and the **Caribbean** at-large.

Born from a longstanding relationship between **Clocktower Founder, Alanna Heiss** and the **Puerto Rican** arts community, this program is made possible through the shared initiatives of **Mana, Clocktower, and MECA International Art Fair**. Most recently, **Heiss** and **Beatrice Johnson** curated **Papo Colo: Assorted Times in Singular Spaces**, which traveled to **Liga de Arte** in **San Juan** in **January of 2017** after its original opening at **Clocktower Gallery** in **2012**.

The new program will launch with a residency program this fall at **Mana Contemporary's** space in **Downtown Miami**, with studios located in the historic **777 International Mall**. All participating artists-in-residence will be chosen through the collaborative efforts of **Alanna Heiss, Mana Contemporary, and a local panel of artists and organizers from Puerto Rico**.

In addition to this residency program, **Mana and Clocktower** will award one exhibiting artist from the **Mecanismos** section of **MECA Art Fair** for a three-month studio residency in **Miami** for the fall of **2017**.

Through the residency and extensive programming, **Focus on Puerto Rico** aims to trigger a growing dialogue between **Latin American** artists living both locally in **Miami** and abroad.

