

Mana Contemporary's "Focus On Puerto Rico" Residency In Miami



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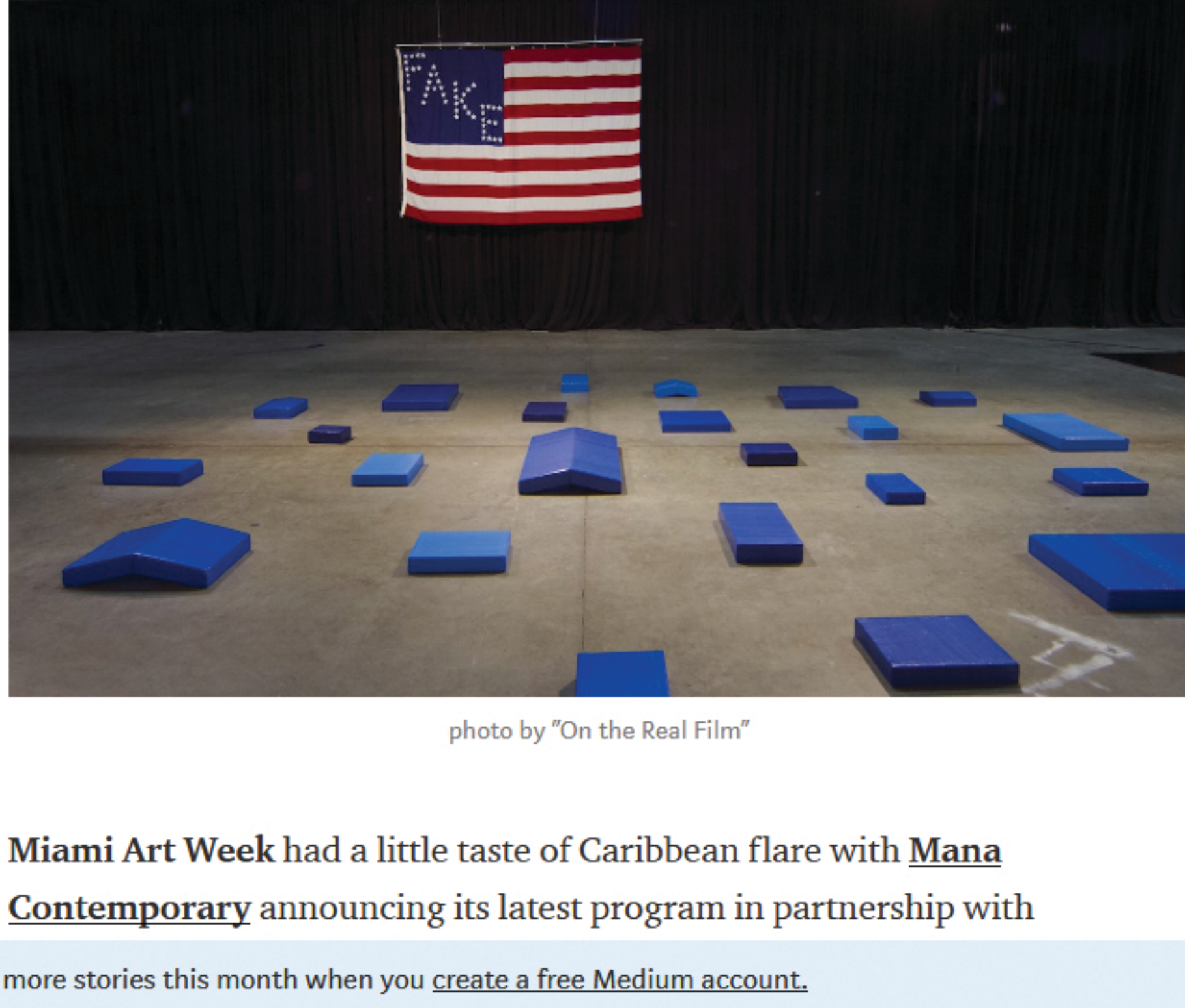


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Miami Art Week had a little taste of Caribbean flare with **Mana Contemporary** announcing its latest program in partnership with

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The residency program, *Focus on Puerto Rico*, at Mana's new location in downtown Miami offers studio space to artists of Puerto Rico and its diaspora. In addition to a three-month studio residency, **Clocktower** organized programming and open-studio events during **Miami Art Week**.

This program was made possible through the shared initiatives of **Mana Contemporary** and **Clocktower**, formed from a relationship between **Clocktower's** founder, **Alanna Heiss**, and the Puerto Rican arts community.



photo by "On the Real Film"

Focus on Puerto Rico aims to celebrate Puerto Rican artists and provide 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.

The program launched this fall at **Mana Contemporary's** space in downtown Miami, with studios located in the historic 777 International Mall. All artists-in-residence have been chosen through the collaborative efforts of **Mana Contemporary**, **Alanna Heiss**, and a local panel of artists and organizers from Puerto Rico.

In addition to selecting the artists, **Mana Contemporary** and **Clocktower** have awarded one exhibiting artist from the **Mecanismos** section of **MECA International Art Fair** for the *Focus on Puerto Rico* residency program.

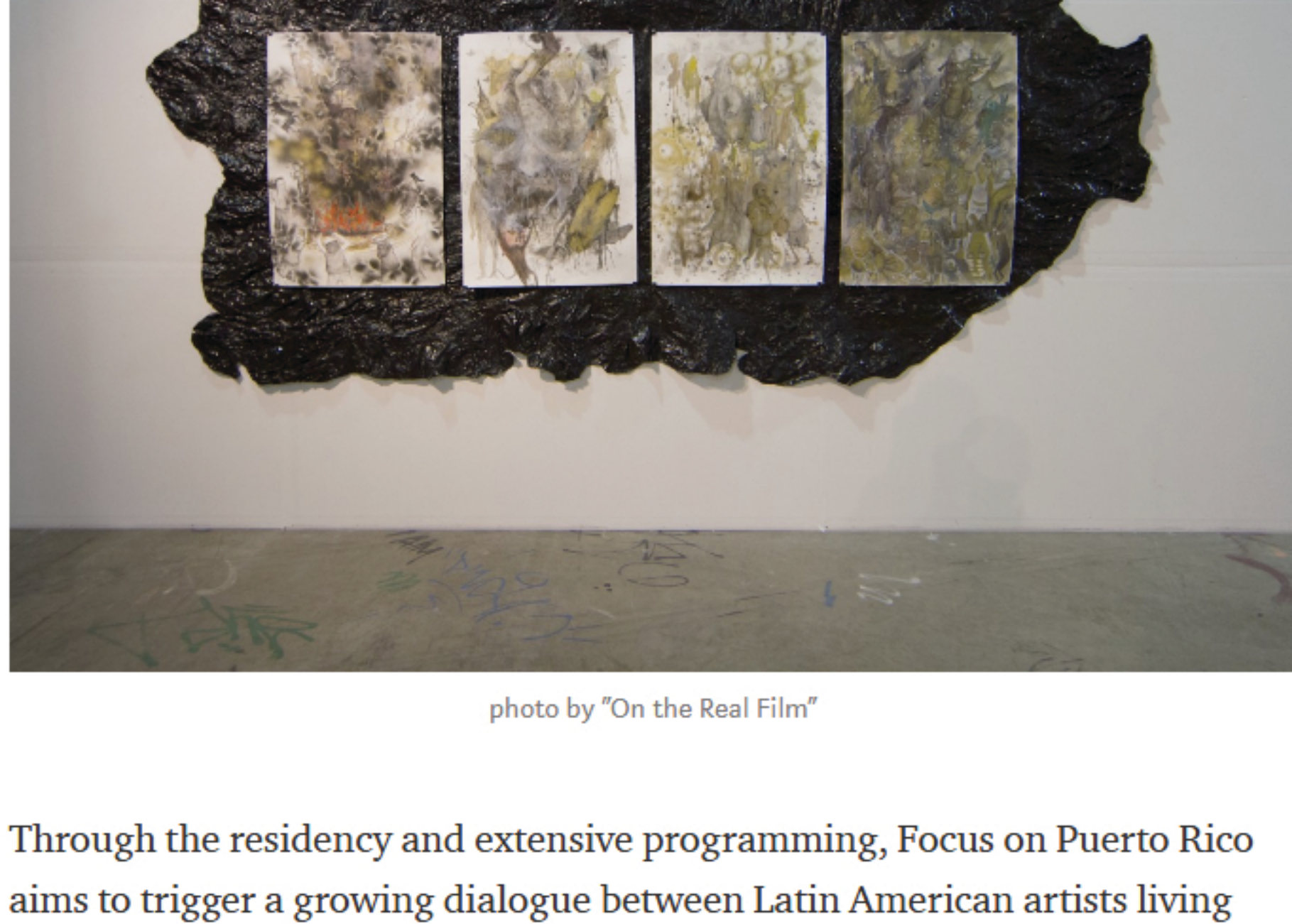


photo by "On the Real Film"

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.

During Miami Art Week, all the artists-in-residents showed their work that was completed over the three-month period.



photo by "On the Real Film"

Artists-In-Residence

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Poncili Creación

Poncili Creación is a group that generates performatic and audiovisual experiences that sprout from their interactive sculptures. Since 2012 they have been working with large-scale foam objects in the form of installations, sculptures, and communication tools.

Shanti Lalita

Shanti Lalita is a cellist, composer, writer, and producer who focuses her work on the creation of soundscapes, translating poetry into music, and vice-versa. Her formation includes a family heritage in classical music.

Ulrik López

López lives and works in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He graduated Magna Cum Laude in sculpture from **Escuela de Artes Plásticas (EAP)** in 2013. He is a 2014–16 grantee of a BBVA Bancomer — **Museo de Arte Carrillo Gil** fellowship in Mexico City, and has been included in the last two editions of the **Muestra Nacional** exhibition in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Matotumba

Matotumba (MTTMB) is an art collective and experimental music group formed in the year 2000 by audio-visual artists from Puerto Rico mostly known for their improvised electronic-experimental music proposal, visual arts, theatre and site-specic performances, videos and film, and documentaries scores.

Andria Morales

Andria Morales (b. 1982, New York) is a visual artist and member of the internet-based duo **Escobar-Morales**. Her work explores identity through a variety of media and collaborative experiments. Her work is included in collections at the **Whitney Museum of American Art**, **El Museo del Barrio**, and **Yale University Library**.

Elizabeth Robles

Elizabeth Robles (b. 1960, Puerto Rico) works mostly in sculpture, installations, and performances at walking distance from her home. The relationship with her surroundings leads her to produce an art of connections and coexistence between objects found or created, materialities, architecture, and the urban and rural fabric.

Awilda Sterling-Duprey (In Collaboration With Laura Patricia RA)

Awilda Sterling is an experimentalist, independent multidisciplinary artist. She trained formally in the visual arts and earned a bachelors in humanities from the **University of Río Piedras**, Puerto Rico, a bachelors in painting from the **School of Visual Arts**, San Juan, and a MFA from **Pratt Institute** in New York. She also trained independently in bodywork techniques, and contemporary and experimental dance. She was awarded the USA Artists Fellowship in Dance in 2010.

Laura Patricia RA

Laura Patricia RA is a young filmmaker, documentarian, and multidisciplinary artist from Puerto Rico. Her work explores photography, digital, mixed media, and installation art as means of an endless process of questioning and perception regarding collective inherited narratives and concepts of self. In 2016 she was recognized by **The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences** with the **National Student Production Award** for Best Cinematography in her short film *Vórtice*.

Yiyo Tirado

Recipient of the residency from the **Mecanismos** section of **MECA Art Fair**, **Yiyo Tirado** was born in the city of San Juan Puerto Rico, on September 24, 1990. He studied at the **San Antonio College of Río Piedras**. In 2008 he began studying mechanical engineering at the **University of Puerto Rico** in Mayagüez. In 2010 he transferred to the **School of Plastic Arts of Puerto Rico (EAP)** where he began his baccalaureate in painting. In 2013 he founded the **Abayarde Taller de Artes Gráficas**, located in Old San Juan.

Rafael Vargas Bernard

Born in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, **Rafael Vargas Bernard** studied computer engineering at the **Georgia Institute of Technology**, sculpture at the **Escuela de Artes Plásticas de Puerto Rico**, and **La Práctica** at Beta Local. His work explores functional and non-functional systems (including power structures, economic systems, and generative systems) and societies relationship with these. His work has been exhibited at **Exit Art** (New York), **Peripher** (Zürich), and **Las Naves** (Valencia), and is part of the permanent collection of the **Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Puerto Rico**.