

galeria nara roesler rene francisco

René Francisco, one of Cuba's most prolific artist and scholar, will have his first solo show in Brazil at GNR São Paulo.

We are happy to house Venceremos. Francisco's first show as a GNR artist as well as his first show in Brazil. Layered with a critical streak that is at times ironic and at others poignant, the artist will showcase drawings, paintings, and assemblages in his debut at the gallery, set to open on April 2nd.

René Francisco is part of a generation of artists who are now in their fifties, who grew up in a Cuba ruled by a full-blown Castro regime. One that can be seen as decadent and overwhelmed by US economic sanctions. It's only natural that artists from that era should explore the contradictions and absurdities wrought by the American embargo and by a domestic policy that strives to save face even as problems are evident. But Francisco goes beyond that and manages to make work that are global, albeit local. Using Cuba as a source of inspiration.

René Francisco's engaged artistic output is complemented by his work as a professor at the national arts school ISA (Instituto Superior de Artes) since 1989, having trained generations of young artists to have a critical outlook. He has also curated many exhibitions on important Cuban artist as well as survey shows on his home country.

Francisco's work as an artist is as faceted as his critical production. It transits between painting to sculpture to

opening
02.04.2016 11am > 3pm

exhibition
04.04 > 04.06.2015
mon > fri 10am > 7pm
sat 11am > 3pm

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installation, intervention, recorded action, and video. His thematic resources include utilizing Castroist slogans and iconography, displacing them from their original context to evidence their outmodedness, and infusing them with modern-day problematics.

Anthropomorphized-but-headless toothpaste tubes and black-and-white paintings of faceless crowds put in check the de-individualization that both the Castroist regime and consumerist society ultimately espouse. The refurbishing of run-down houses in Havana and offers to draw personal portraits at a stand on the street are examples of his direct actions.

The works set to be featured at Galeria Nara Roesler include black-and-white paintings from his series portraying depersonalized human collectives inside matchboxes, like flammable material that could explode. Another piece is *Venceremos*, a composition made from trowels used in civil construction that bear the letters of the famous Cuban slogan, formed by crowd paintings. Geometric shapes on graph paper reminiscent of utilitarian industrial projects are also on display.

about the artist

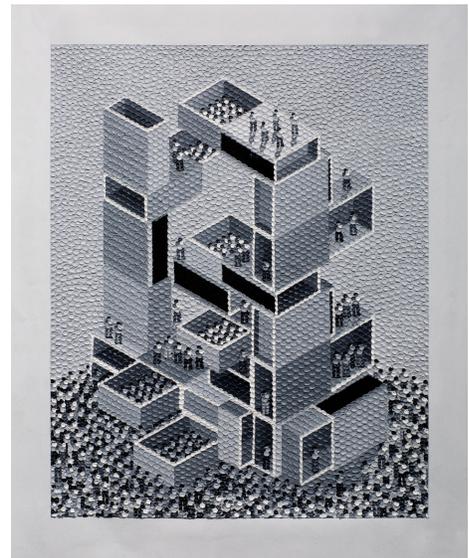
René Francisco was born in Holguín, Cuba, in 1960, and lives and works out of Havana. He has won several international prizes, including the UNESCO Prize (2000) and Cuba's National Fine Arts Prize (2010), and his work has been featured in solo and group shows in the United States, Central and South America, and Europe, as well as in the Venice Biennale (1999 and 2007), the 26th São Paulo Art Biennial (2004), the 2nd Thessaloniki Biennale (2009) and the Havana Biennial (1997 and 2000).

about the gallery

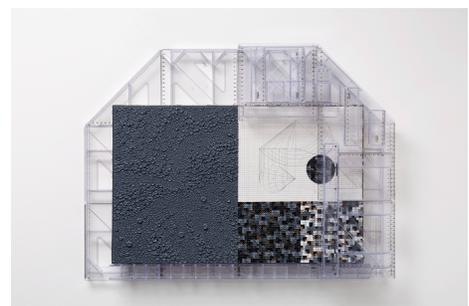
Galeria Nara Roesler is one of the leading contemporary art galleries in Brazil, with locations in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, in addition to a recently opened viewing room in New York. Founded in 1989 by Nara Roesler, the gallery has consistently fomented curatorial and artistic practice



venceremos, 2015
oil on canvas on metal and wood
21 x 12 x 2 cm (each)



incendiários 4, 2015
oil on canvas
160 x 120 cm



cuidad vista desde arriba, 2016
pencil, oil on canvas, rulers and bevels
140 x 100 cm

through an ambitious exhibitions program, created in close collaboration with its artists and invited curators; and has participated in major international art fairs. Firmly committed in advancing the career of its artists, Galeria Nara Roesler collaborates in the publication of monographic books and extends continuous support beyond the gallery space.