

nara roesler

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rio de janeiro  
new york

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**marco a. castillo**  
from the circle to the star

nara roesler new york  
**opening** may 1, 6pm  
**exhibition** may 1 – jun 5, 2025



Marco A. Castillo, *Lam Palo II*, 2024.

Nara Roesler New York is pleased to present *From the Circle to the Star*, the first solo exhibition in New York by Marco A. Castillo (Havana, Cuba, 1971), marking a significant moment in the artist's career and introducing American audiences to his artistic practice, which reflects on the subtle connections between – and the collective tensions of – their expressions, politics and design, function and form, history, art, and decoration.

Castillo carries out extensive research in the fields of architecture, design, and sculpture—fundamental aspects of his artistic practice—which is characterized by installations, drawings, and sculptures that engage with space and negotiate, with notable humor, the functional and the non-functional. In his works, Castillo reflects

on Cuba's modernization process during the 1960s and 1970s, referencing influential Cuban artists, architects, and designers. His most recent sculptures and works on paper combine elements of the country's modernist design and Soviet-era socialist realism with traditional Cuban techniques and materials, including mahogany and woven straw lattice, as well as the graphic design from that same period. Through his production, the artist revisits the work of key figures from a "forgotten generation" of Cuban architects and designers, such as Gonzalo Córdoba, María Victoria Caignet, Rodolfo Fernández Suárez (Fofi), Joaquín Galván, and Walter Betancourt. Taking a critical stance, Castillo seeks to follow the path paved by these historical artists while positioning himself as a defender and promoter of Cuba's artistic heritage.

The title of the exhibition, *From the Circle to the Star*, borrows its name from a series of works in wood and rattan that depict the transition—or evolution—between two simple, distinct forms: the circle and the star. It also evokes a sense of continuity between them. This progression of two basic geometric shapes reflects the political dualism of which Marco Castillo—and generations of Cuban artists and intellectuals—will always be a part, inspired by his recent exhibitions, such as the show at the Cranbrook Art Museum, where Castillo explored the intersection of modernist design and social history.

*From the Circle to the Star* invites viewers to reflect on how simple geometric shapes can carry complex historical and symbolic meanings, and how those meanings are reinterpreted and appropriated across different cultural contexts. The exhibition also highlights Castillo's ability to create a dialogue between the functional and the aesthetic, challenging traditional conventions of art and design. It also evokes a sense of continuity between forms. This progression of two basic geometric shapes represents the political dualism that Marco Castillo—and generations of Cuban artists and intellectuals—are inevitably a part of. Inspired by his own exhibitions, including most recently at the Cranbrook Art Museum, Castillo explores the intersection between modernist design and social history, challenging traditional conventions of art and design.

#### about marco a. castillo

Marco A. Castillo lives and works in Havana, Cuba, and in Madrid, Spain. Recent solo exhibitions include: *The Hands of Collector*, at Cranbrook Art Museum (2024), in Detroit, USA; *Propriedad del estado*, at Nara Roesler (2021), in São Paulo, Brazil; *The Decorator's Home*, at UTA Artist Space (2019), in Los Angeles, USA; *El susurro del palmar*, at Galerie Peter Kilchmann (2018), in Zurich, Switzerland; *El otro, el mismo*, at KOW (2018), in Berlin, Germany; *La cosa está candela*, at Museo de Arte Miguel Urrutia (2017), in Bogotá, Colombia. He has also participated in numerous editions of the Havana Biennial, Havana, Cuba (2018, 2015, 2012); and in the 13th Sharjah Biennial, Beirut, Lebanon (2017). Recent group shows include: *Latin American Work on Paper*, at Mayor Gallery (2018), in London, UK; *Everyday Poetics*, at Seattle Art Museum (2017), in Seattle, USA; *No Place Like Home*, at Israel Museum (2017), in Jerusalem, Israel; *Contingent Beauty*:

*Contemporary Art from Latin America*, at Museum of Fine Arts (2015), in Houston, USA. His works are parts of several important institutional collections such as: Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France; Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain; Daros Foundation, Zurich, Switzerland; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA; Tate Modern, London, UK; and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA, amongst others.

#### about nara roesler

Nara Roesler is a leading Brazilian contemporary art gallery, representing seminal Brazilian and international artists who emerged in the 1950s as well as preeminent mid-career and emerging artists who dialogue with the currents put forth by these historical figures. Founded by Nara Roesler in 1989, the gallery has consistently fomented curatorial practice while upholding the utmost quality in art production. This has actively been put into practice through a select and rigorous exhibitions program created in close collaboration with its artists; the implementation and fostering of the Roesler Curatorial Project, a platform for curatorial projects; and continued support to artists beyond the gallery space, working with institutions and curators in offsite shows. In 2012, the gallery doubled its São Paulo exhibition space, in 2014 it expanded to Rio, and in 2015 it opened in New York City, continuing its mission to provide the best platform for its artists to show their work.

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