



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CIFO exhibits contemporary artists from Venezuela Alexander Apóstol and Magdalena Fernández.

(Miami, April 2006) The Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation will exhibit *Alexander Apóstol: Savage Modern/ Moderno Salvaje* and *Magdalena Fernández: Surfaces/Superficies*, May 13-June 18, 2006 at the foundation's new art space located at 1018 North Miami Avenue.

The first two exhibitions for CIFO's new Commissions Program, *Savage Modern* and *Surfaces* highlight the artwork of these two multifaceted artists, both of Venezuelan descent, and feature recent installation, photography and video, including newly-created pieces never before exhibited in the US. In what is both artists' first solo show in Miami, the two exhibitions are juxtaposed in the art space to create a dialogue between their two diametrically opposed developments of their common narrative: modernity and modernism.

Alexander Apóstol's work, comprised of photography series and video pieces, questions the development of modernity in his native Venezuela—which extrapolates into a general questioning of a universal idea of 'modernity,' creating a dialectic between the 'modern' and a reality that contradicts this idea. He accomplishes this by revealing a paradoxical reality where he finds contradicting forces at play by digitally manipulating photographs in both his *Residente Pulido* and *Residente Pulido:Ranchos* series and by creating "real" video situations, such as the pieces *Don Carlos* and *Documental*, where the question of Venezuela's dreams of modernity ever having been accomplished is poignantly asked. The majority of the series of photographs and all of the video pieces will be seen for the first time in the US in this exhibition.

Magdalena Fernández's art stems from the Venezuelan mid-century modern movements of Geometric Abstraction and Kinetic Art. She has developed a unique, sensitive, abstract body of work. *Surfaces/Superficies* highlights recent and newly created video pieces, sensorial compositions of geometric shapes altered, molded, by elements such as water, sound, and light. Producing installation pieces specifically for this exhibition, Fernández creates experiences that involve the viewer by exploring the possibilities of movement and form creating atmospheres through light and geometric shapes. Using materials such as fiber-optic and neon cables, her installations, such as *remoob* and *remoob*, test the viewer's perception of rigid surfaces such as the square (or plane) as they become fluid light, to be interacted with.

CIFO is a non-profit organization founded in 2002 by Ella Fontanals Cisneros and her family to foster cultural exchange in the field of visual arts. **CIFO** aims to support emerging and mid-career contemporary, multidisciplinary artists from Latin America, whose work challenges established boundaries and categories defining contemporary art today. As part of the commissions program, each year two to four mid-career artists will be selected and given a solo show at **CIFO**. In addition, **CIFO**'s Grant Program will showcase the work of ten emerging artists in a group show this October 2006. "Part of **CIFO**'s mission in promoting artists from Latin America is to exhibit the work of artists like Fernández

and Apóstol who are at a pivotal stage in their careers where they benefit from more exposure in the US, particularly Miami," comments Director and Chief Curator, Cecilia Fajardo-Hill.

The exhibition will be open during Wynwood Art District 2nd Saturdays on May 13, from 7-10pm. Special programming includes a Conversation with the Artists held Tuesday May 16, 2006 from 7-10pm, where Apóstol and Fernandez will lead a tour of their respective shows and candidly discuss their work with the audience.

Exhibition Hours are Fridays and Saturdays, 10am-4pm and by appointment only. Please call 305.455.3380 to schedule an appointment, or for more information or visit www.cifo.org.

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