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Art World Editors' Picks: 8 Events for Your Art Calendar This Week, From Ming Smith's Air Jordan Project to an Art Advisor's New Podcast

Plus, see new works by UK-based artist Andrew Cranston at Karma and a show of pictures by Stuart Davis at Kasmin.

Artnet News, June 28, 2021



Joel Meyerowitz, San Cristobal de las Casas, Mexico 1971 (1971). © Joel Meyerowitz.

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Each week, we search for the most exciting and thought-provoking shows, screenings, and events. In light of the global health crisis, we are currently highlighting events in person and digitally, as well as in-person exhibitions open in the New York area. See our picks from around the world below. (Times are all EST unless otherwise noted.)

Tuesday, June 29-Friday, July 2



Ming Smith's photograph for the new Air Jordan campaign. Courtesy of the artist and Nicola Vassell.

1. "Here for a Reason" at Nicol Vassell What happens when a revered photographer teams up with one of the biggest and most ubiquitous brands in the world to shoot the best athletes at the top of their game? At "Here for a Reason," Ming Smith shows us. The exhibition marks the launch of a campaign she shot to celebrate the NBA for Air Jordan—a series that features His Airness himself. Location: 138 10th Avenue Price: Free Time: Opening reception, 4 p.m.–8 p.m. —Nan Stewart

Tuesday, June 29



Megan Fox Kelly. Photo courtesy of Megan Fox Kelly.

2. "Reading the Art World: Tiqui Atencio Demirdjian" at Megan Fox Kelly Art Advisory Art advisor Megan Fox Kelly, president of the Association of Professional Art Advisors, has a new interview series featuring authors of new books on art. First on deck will be collector Tiqui Atencio Demirdjian, whose book For Art's Sake: Inside the Home of Art Dealers was published by Rizzoli last fall. Each livestreamed interview will also become a podcast episode. Price: Free with registration Time: 12 p.m. —Sarah Cascone

Wednesday, June 30



3. "The Shoe Sho, Curated by Julie Curtiss" at Anton Kern's Window From Van Gogh's painting of humble peasant shoes to the pin-heeled stilettos of Andy Warhol's screenprints, shoes are a constant in art history, and Julie Curtiss takes up the theme for a show she has just curated. Like Carrie Bradshaw salivating over Manolo's through glass, you can look but not touch (or even go inside to see the foot candy). Works by Genesis Belanger, Richard McClure, and Henry Gunderson are just a few of the highlights. Location: Anton Kern's Window at 91 Walker Street, corner of Walker & Lovette Street Price: Free Time: 2-7 —Caroline Goldstein

Wednesday, June 30



Joel Meyerowitz's Wild Flowers. © Joel Meyerowitz. Courtesy of Rizzoli.

4. Joel Meyerowitz: Wild Flowers Virtual Event To celebrate an expanded edition of Joel Meyerowitz's 1983 photobook Wild Flowers, the artist will be in conversation with artist and writer Gae Powell. "I remember thinking that it was kind of serious of me at the time, after making two books with the large format camera, which were kind of sensual and serious and about space and light and other photography subjects, to turn around and do this," Meyerowitz told Art Observer. The new edition features unpublished pictures from the artist's 40-year repository of street photography. Price: Free with registration Time: 12 p.m. —Caroline Goldstein

Wednesday, June 30 and Thursday, July 1



Cornelius Amor, A Night with Osibiza 2021. Courtesy of the artist and Venus Over Manhattan, New York.

5. "Indoor Dining" at Marinaro and "The Interior" at Venus Over Manhattan On Wednesday, the Chatham Square gallery Marinaro will open a survey called "Indoor Dining," a nod to our tradition of breaking bread in enclosed spaces—Cuban eatery, naturally, the show will have artists who create on memorable interiors (Nick Buffon, Peter Shire) paint luscious depictions of food (Dina Beavers, Katherine Bernhardt) or do both (Niki Maloff, Chloé Wise). A day later and some 80 blocks uptown, Venus Over Manhattan will stage "The Interior," a slightly more sober investigation into how artists occupy roofed spaces. This time, a long list of artists both Cuban and international, including Homayon Farman, Marley and established (Jessie Homer French, Marley approval before presenting work) plus the emotions caused by the idea of enclosure. Location: Marinaro at 1 Oliver Street, Venus Over Manhattan, 120 East 6th Street Price: Free Time: 5 p.m.–7 p.m. —Nate Freeman

Wednesday, June 28–Friday, August 13



Stuart Davis/Dancers on Havana Street (1920) © 2021 Estate of Stuart Davis. Licensed by WGA at Artists Rights Society (ARS), NY.

6. "Stuart Davis in Havana" at Kasmin Gallery, New York The American Modernist painter Stuart Davis is famous for his colorful, jazz-influenced paintings and compositions, but this exhibition showcases 10 evocative early watercolors painted in 1920 during his brief yet formative trip to Havana, Cuba, where he nested after contracting Spanish flu. Curated by Davis estate adviser Priscilla Vail Caldwell in collaboration with artist's son, East Davis, the show is the first to showcase the paintings, in addition to the works, the show includes archival material documenting the artist's trip, including postcards, lottery tickets, and his passport. Location: Kasmin Gallery 297 Tenth Avenue, New York Price: Free Time: Tuesday–Saturday 10 a.m.–6 p.m. —Eileen Kinzella

Through Saturday, August 6



Andrew Cranston, Waiting for the Bell (2021). Courtesy of Karma.

7. "Andrew Cranston: Waiting for the Bell" at Karma The U.K.-based artist Andrew Cranston's first solo show in New York includes a delightful array of small and large-scale works. In pictures like Assembly (Three musicians), a rose-colored canvas almost completely engulfs the picture, while in Waiting for the Bell, a lone figure sits amid a forest, his pond, or maybe Kusama infinity room with a white dog on her lap. Location: 188 & 172 East 2nd Street Price: Free Time: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. —Caroline Goldstein

Through Friday, August 20



Mark Barrow and Sarah Parke, Woman IX (2021). Courtesy of JDI.

8. "Family Business" at JDI For three years, JDI has been presenting an intriguing array of contemporary exhibitions in a former clubhouse in Garrison, New York. Now the gallery is inaugurating a new Tribeca location with the group show "Family Business," which brings together works by a group of artists who have played important roles in the gallery's development, including Lucia Love, Athena LaTocha, and the duo Barrow Parke, who will present an acrylic and embroidery work from a new series focused on fertility statues such as the Venus of Willendorf. Location: JDI, 373 Broadway Price: Free Time: Tuesday-Friday, 12 p.m.–4 p.m. —Katie White

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Politics Artist Hamlet Lavastida Has Been Arrested in Havana as Cuban Officials Continue Their Crackdown on Artistic Expression

Lavastida was arrested days after returning from a residency at Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin.

Kate Brown, June 28, 2021



Hamlet Lavastida. Photo: Peter Rosemann.

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Cuban artist Hamlet Lavastida is the latest cultural worker to be arrested by Cuban officials in an increased crackdown on expression. Lavastida was arrested on June 26, days after returning from a residency at Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin, a prominent arts space. He is currently being held at Villa Mariasta prison, a jail known to hold political prisoners.

"It is tragic," said dealer James Mayer, who represents the artist. "He is a sweet person, and his while his work is political in nature, it is in a heartless way. He was not just on the political bandwagon, I do not understand why people are so afraid of art." Lavastida had returned to Cuba after several months in Germany, where he was presenting new works. His arrest came during a mandatory quarantine period, according to QuedaDeWelle.

"Hamlet Lavastida is a courageous artist who acts within the freedom of art," a spokesperson from Künstlerhaus Bethanien told Artnet News. "With his work, he makes use of his right to freedom of expression." The residency is trying to gain further information about his status alongside 127, a Cuban activist group of which Lavastida is a member. The group is dedicated to protesting censorship of artistic expression.

"Hamlet Lavastida should be released immediately," Cuban American artist Coco Fusco told Artnet News. "This unwarranted action by the state against an artist who has done nothing more than create art and express his beliefs is just one more piece of evidence of the Cuban government's ongoing mistreatment of its artists and intellectuals."

A detail view of Hamlet Lavastida's project "Cultura Prácticas" on view at Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin. This work is an artistic transcription of Javier Casero from 2019. Photo: David Brandt. Courtesy of the artist.

For his solo presentation at Künstlerhaus Bethanien, "Cultura Prácticas," which closed at the end of May, Lavastida presented a series of delicate works made from paper. One included the confession of Cuban activist and visual artist Javier Casero from his interrogation by authorities in 2020.

Lavastida also recently collaborated with Fusco on a project called "Padilla's Shadow," which entailed a reading of the Cuban poet Heberto Padilla's 1971 statement against government censorship.

For the past several years, the Cuban government has been increasingly tightening its grip on artistic expression. A law named Decree 349 came into power in 2018, requiring artists to obtain official government approval before presenting work publicly.

The law has been condemned by the artistic community, including prominent figures like Fusco and Tania Bruguera. In December, hundreds of protesters marched in Havana to demand the government to try to come to an official agreement, but the talks fell through. In February, 9,000 people signed a petition for the removal of the current culture minister, Alpidio Alonso.

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Kate Brown Europe Editor

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