

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Durban Segnini Gallery presents the exhibition:

LOOKING BACK MOVING FORWARD

November 23, 2024 – April 27, 2025

Opening: Saturday, November 23rd, 6-10 PM

Durban Segnini Gallery is pleased to announce the exhibition *Looking Back Moving Forward*, curated by Rina Carvajal.

***Looking Back Moving Forward* presents a selection of work by six contemporary Venezuelan artists -- Alexander Apóstol, Alessandro Balteo-Yazbeck, Mariana Bunimov, Luis Molina-Pantin, Javier Téllez and Christian Vinck -- whose work provides a unique reflection on the socio-political and cultural situation of Venezuela, tracing an active dialogue between past and present, proximity and distance, rootedness and displacement, personal and collective memory.**

As part of the current-day Venezuelan diaspora, the artists in *Looking Back Moving Forward* live and work independently in different parts of the world, but all use their practices to capture the profound sense of loss and transformation experienced by their generation. Alexander Apóstol and Alessandro Balteo-Yazbeck interrogate the fractures within Venezuela's modernity, critically highlighting the stark contrasts between the developmentalist state policies and the lived realities of marginalization. They also reveal the inherent contradictions within kinetic artistic languages and the absorption and instrumentalization of those languages by national agendas. In a similarly reflective manner, Javier Téllez outspokenly unveils, in an almost premonitory way, the class struggles and socio-economic decay that would come to define Venezuela over subsequent decades. Luis Molina-Pantin turns his focus toward the country's gradual economic collapse following the banking crisis of the late 1990s, while Mariana Bunimov and Christian Vinck reflect on personal and collective memories of migration, displacement, and the emotional and psychological effects of the diasporic experience.

As the curator Rina Carvajal writes in the essay that accompanies the exhibition:

"Looking Back Moving Forward is premised on the underlying idea that artworks can serve as 'dialectical images' that capture the complexities of a historical moment, thus allowing us to experience history as something living and the present as a space of potentiality.....The artworks presented here provide unique reflections on the socio-political and cultural situation of Venezuela, fostering a reflective engagement with the past that resonates deeply with the present. With their distinctive ability to grasp paradoxes and

intersections, these artists not only create singular aesthetic experiences, but they also serve as interpreters whose images give us a lens to challenge fixed narratives and provide new meanings for the present.”

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Durban Segnini Gallery will host a conversation with Javier Téllez (artist), Rina Carvajal (exhibition curator) and Axel Stein (art advisor) on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at 7 pm.

The curator dedicates the exhibition to the memory of Cesar Segnini (1938-2022), who loved Venezuela and dedicated his life to the recognition and promotion of Venezuelan and Latin American art and culture. He is greatly missed, and his generosity and example remain an inspiration.

What: *Looking Back Moving Forward*, curated by Rina Carvajal

When: November 23, 2024 – April 27, 2025

Where: 3072 SW 38th Ave. Miami FL 33146

For press, high-resolution images, or any other inquiries please contact us at:
cristina@durbansegnini.com or call (305) 774-7740