Pérez Art Museum Miami Announces Recipients of Second Annual Caribbean Cultural Institute Fellowship

Clockwise from top left: Monica Sorelle, Eliazar Ortiz, Jessica Taylor, and Erica Moiah James.

(MIAMI, FL — October 28, 2021) — Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) is pleased to announce the recipients of the second cycle of the Caribbean Cultural Institute Fellowship (CCI). With the support of The Mellon Foundation, PAMM’s CCI is a program that aims to advance the study of Caribbean art while providing opportunities for exchange and collaboration across the Caribbean region and its diasporic communities. Selected by a committee composed of PAMM Associate Curator Jennifer Inacio, PAMM Director of Education Marie Vickles, PAMM CCI Coordinator Iberia Pérez Gonzalez, and PAMM Curator María Elena Ortiz, two artists and two researchers have been invited to expand their practice and research throughout the next year with the support of PAMM’s institutional resources.

“Thanks to our partners at the Mellon Foundation, we are delighted to invite the second group of artists and scholars to the Fellowship program of the Caribbean Cultural Institute. Under the guidance of Curator María Elena Ortiz, the coordination of Iberia Pérez Gonzalez, and the curatorial oversight of Chief Curator René Morales, we are delighted to receive the new fellows who represent the global character of the Caribbean from near and far,” said PAMM Director Franklin Sirmans.
This year’s fellowship was expanded to include both international and Florida-based artists and researchers selected from an open call. The recipients of the second CCI Fellowship are artists Monica Sorelle and Eliazar Ortiz, and researchers Erica Moiah James and Jessica Taylor.

“This selection offers an inspiring mix of Caribbean narratives, including Haitian-American identity, Marronage and ancestral healing, along with strong research that expands on Caribbean art history and the Black diaspora,” said PAMM Curator Maria Elena Ortiz.

Florida-based Artist Fellow Monica Sorelle will expand the project “Reeds/Wozo,” a collection of works utilizing video, photography, and sculpture that engages the history of Haitian people, specifically women, as the poto mitan, or pillars of society, despite the weight of political and international pressure on the island. International Artist Fellow Eliazar Ortiz’s project “Guáyiga Maniel” deals with the recovery of the legacy, memory, and ancestral knowledge of Afro-Antillean cultures through artworks made with organic materials and pigments collected from his own natural environment.

The project of Florida-based Research Fellow Erica Moiah James will focus on developing a chapter for her second academic book, which aims to historicize the concept of the global over a period of 500 years through a series of artworks created in the Caribbean, from the landing of Columbus to the present day. International Research Fellow Jessica Taylor will look at the significance of travel, movement, and cross-border exchange for creative practitioners from the region and consider the relationship between production and travel in the formation of collections of Caribbean art today.

The recipients of last year’s CCI Fellowship were Ronald Cyrille (Artist Fellowship) in collaboration with Mémorial Acte in Guadeloupe, and Julián Sánchez-González (Research Fellowship). This program has enabled regional and local collaborations with institutions such as the Bakehouse Art Complex in Miami, Mémorial ACTe in Guadeloupe, and the Cultural Services French Embassy in Miami. The CCI Fellowships are possible thanks to the support of The Mellon Foundation.

ABOUT THE 2021 CCI ARTIST FELLOWS

Monica Sorelle is a Haitian-American filmmaker and photographer born and based in Miami. She has produced and worked as a department head on projects for Film Independent, A24, HBO, and PBS. Sorelle is a member of Third Horizon, a creative collective dedicated to developing, producing, exhibiting, and distributing films that give voice to stories of the Caribbean, its diaspora, and other marginalized and underrepresented spaces in the Global South. She is currently the associate director of programs & industry for their flagship initiative Third Horizon Film Festival.

Sorelle was an inaugural fellow of New Orleans Film Society’s Southern Producers Lab in 2018. Her latest produced project, T (dir. Keisha Rae Witherspoon), was acquired by Criterion Channel, has been selected at Sundance Film Festival, won the Golden Bear for Best Short Film at Berlinale, and received additional awards at Miami Film Festival, New Orleans Film Festival, and BlackStar Film Festival. Currently, Sorelle is a Cinematic Arts resident at Oolite Arts, where she is writing and developing her feature directorial debut, Mountains.

Héctor Eliazar Ortiz studied engineering and photography. He first exhibited his work by participating in the underground artistic movements of Buenos Aires through feminist and LGBTQI collectives. Upon his return to Santo Domingo, he was awarded an Honorable Mention at the XXVII Santo Domingo Biennial among other awards and recognitions. He settled in Las Terrenas and began to work with materials from his surroundings, incorporating the natural environment into his work. Nature provides him with structures
and metaphors to explore masculinity, language, and decolonial discourses. Photography is integral to his practice: documentation, sketches, installations, performance and drawings are articulated through the photographic camera.

In 2018, he participated in the 27 Eduardo León Jimenes contest through which he won a 2019 residency at Mémorial ACtE in Guadalupe, and was selected for the Ghetto Biennale in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. In 2020, he participated in Zona Maco Sur in Mexico City, and won the Catapult Stay Home Artist Residency Grant awarded by Kingston Creative, Fresh Milk, and the American Friends of Jamaica.

ABOUT THE 2021 CCI RESEARCH FELLOWS

Erica Moiah James is an art historian, curator, and assistant professor of African, Black and Caribbean art at The University of Miami. Her research and writing centers on indigenous, modern and contemporary art of the Caribbean and the African Diaspora. Select academic publications include Charles White's J'Accuse! and the Limits of Universal Blackness (AAAJ, 2016); Every N****r is a Star: Re-imaging Blackness from Post Civil Rights America to the Post-Independence Caribbean (Black Camera, 2016), Decolonizing Time: Nineteenth Century Haitian Portraiture and the Critique of Anachronism in Caribbean Art (NKA, 2019) and numerous curatorial essays including more recently "Purvis Young: Nothing Left Unsaid" (ICA 2019); “The Black Sublime: Rene Pena’s Archangel, 2018” (SX 2019); Ricardo Brey’s “Adrift”(MER, B&L, 2019); "Theriantropic Beasts: The Mystic Revelation of Tomás Esson" (ICA 2021); and "Edouard Duval Carrié: Historical Retelling and the Postmodern Baroque" (Bass Museum 2020).

Before arriving in Miami, she was the founding director and chief curator of the National Gallery of The Bahamas (2003-2011); a jointly appointed assistant professor in the departments of the History of Art and African American Studies at Yale University and director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of African American Studies at Yale.


Jessica Taylor is a Barbadian curator and producer based in London. As the head of programmes of the International Curators Forum (ICF), Taylor co-curated the 2017-8 'Diaspora Pavilion' exhibitions in Venice and Wolverhampton and is co-curating the multi-site 'Diaspora Pavilion 2' project. She has co-curated programmes such as 'An Alternative Map of the Universe' (Guest Projects, London), 'Migrating Cities' (Spark Festival, Hong Kong), 'Sensational Bodies' (Jerwood Staging Series), and 'Monster and Island' with artist Sheena Rose (Royal Academy, London). Taylor also produced the exhibition 'Arrivants: Art and Migration in the Anglophone Caribbean World' (Barbados Museum) and the multi-site programme 'Curating the International Diaspora' in Sharjah, Barbados and Martinique. Prior to joining ICF, Taylor worked as an assistant curator at the Barbados Museum. She holds a BA in Art History and Philosophy from McGill University, Montreal, and a MA in Curating Contemporary Art from the Royal College of Art, London.

ABOUT PAMM
Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), led by Director Franklin Sirmans, promotes artistic expression and the exchange of ideas, advancing public knowledge and appreciation of art, architecture, and design, and
reflecting the diverse community of its pivotal geographic location at the crossroads of the Americas. The 37-year-old South Florida institution, formerly known as Miami Art Museum (MAM), opened a new building, designed by world-renowned architects Herzog & de Meuron, on December 4, 2013 in Downtown Miami’s Maurice A. Ferré Park. The facility is a state-of-the-art model for sustainable museum design and progressive programming and features 200,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor program space with flexible galleries; shaded outdoor verandas; a waterfront restaurant and bar; a museum shop; and an education center with a library, media lab, and classroom spaces.

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