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Gabriel Martínez
UN VIAJE ENTRE
curated by Camilo Alvarez
February 7 - April 9, 2022

Taller Puertorriqueño is pleased to present a solo exhibition by Gabriel Martínez, curated by Camilo Alvarez.

In his first major show at Taller Puertorriqueño, *Un Viaje Entre (A Trip Between)*, Gabriel Martínez returns to his Little Havana roots reflecting upon various topics related to his Cuban-American upbringing: culture, history, politics, and religion.



Figure 1 (detail) "Me Llegó al Cuerpo la Espuma (El Farito)", 2022

Martínez is a multidisciplinary artist based in Philadelphia whose work investigates masculinity, personal history, and Queer identity. This new work explores the cost of migration, the formation of memory, and the ongoing conversations and missed connections between Miami and Havana.

On display in Taller's Lorenzo Homar Gallery is a selection of the artist's work from the past decade; six bodies of work, a photographic mural, and a hanging sculptural installation in Taller's atrium. Martínez's performative, collaborative, and conceptual process is at the center of this work, including the *Between* photo series made by traveling to Cuba to connect with his cultural heritage. Creating banners for his subjects to hold, he inverts and reverses images in an examination of the symbolic to the literal. The often-static roles of viewer, subject, artist, visitor, migration, trans-migration, and home become interchangeable, questioning and examining our perspectives, even up and down.

In the Atrium is a large-scale, site-specific installation of 62 hanging sculptures, *Paracaídas de Azabaches*, consisting of the artist's extensive and dynamic collection of quinceañera dresses. The artists' process of collapsing binaries, sites, and spaces is observed in the collaborative aspect of this work and the employment of molds of life-sized hands. Produced by David Ross Harper, the molds were cast from the hands of Nasheli Juliana Ortiz-González, Taller's Executive Director, Rafael Damast, Taller's Exhibitions Manager, and Camilo Alvarez, this show's curator.

Artist & Curator Bios (condensed)

Gabriel Martínez (b. 1967, Miami, FL) is a photo-based, multidisciplinary, Philadelphia-based artist and educator born and raised by Cuban parents. He has been teaching in the Photo Program for the Department of Fine Arts, Penn Design, for the last 20 years. Martínez serves on the Advisory Board for the Center for the Emerging Visual Artist, Philadelphia Photo Arts Center, and Galaei (a Queer and Trans, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color radical social justice organization). He was a Pew Fellowship in the Arts recipient in 2001. Martínez has created performances and installations for various venues, including: in Philadelphia at the Institute of Contemporary Art, The Fabric Workshop & Museum, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Philadelphia Art Alliance.

Camilo Alvarez is a nationally recognized curator based out of Massachusetts and Florida who has prepared over 100 art presentations for museums, galleries, art fairs, and other venues. He founded Samson (samsonprojects.com) in 2004.

Join us for the following events associated with this exhibition

- February 5th 12-1pm: Artist & Curator Talk: *The work of Gabriel Martínez*. Link to [join here](#)
- April 1st – Panel Discussion & Closing Reception. Link to [RSVP](#)

Links

- Venue Website: <https://tallerpr.org/un-viaje-entre/>
- Artist Website: <http://www.gabrielmartinez.com/>

Social Media

- Instagram [@gabejmartinez](#) / [@TallerPR](#) / [@samsonprojects](#)
- Twitter [@TallerPR](#) / [@samsonprojects](#)

Mission

Taller Puertorriqueño (Taller) is a community-based cultural organization founded in 1974. Taller's primary purpose is to preserve, develop and promote Puerto Rican arts and culture, grounded in the conviction that embracing one's cultural heritage is central to community empowerment. Taller is also committed to the representation and support of other Latino and Latinx cultural expressions and common roots.

Vision

Taller is guided by the vision of a Latino community that is engaged, culturally aware, and economically vibrant in a society that values its cultural diversity. Taller serves as a destination that catalyzes community development through its arts and cultural resources and builds bridges between the local community, the region, and the Puerto Rican and Latinx Diaspora.

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