

## **Dagoberto Rodríguez's "Planeta de Cristal"**

*"I've often heard people say: 'I wonder what it would feel like to be on board a spaceship,' and the answer is very simple. What does it feel like? That's all we have ever experienced. We are all astronauts on a little spaceship called Earth."* -R. Buckminster Fuller

Artist Dagoberto Rodríguez unveils an immersive installation alongside video and watercolor works as a represented artist at Piero Atchugarry Gallery.

Curated by Aluna Curatorial Collective, Cuban artist Dagoberto Rodríguez's, *Planeta de Cristal* addresses the present political and environmental vulnerabilities of the earth while simultaneously imagining an alternative future.

EXHIBITION DATE: February 27, - July 24, 2021

OPENING RECEPTION: Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 6-9pm

PLACE: Piero Atchugarry Gallery

5520 NE 4th Avenue, Miami, FL 33137

The **Piero Atchugarry Gallery** presents *Planeta de Cristal (Crystal Planet)*, a futurist solo exhibition of video work, watercolor work and an immersive installation by one of the most influential Cuban artists of the turn of the century, **Dagoberto Rodríguez**. Conceived almost entirely during the outbreak of the pandemic, *Crystal Planet* seeks to imagine a future that endures beyond the unfulfilled promises of modernism, and the fragile state of the earth's present social, political and environmental circumstances. Curated by **Aluna Curatorial Collective** (Adriana Herrera & Willy Castellanos), *Crystal Planet* is also the inaugural show of Rodríguez's representation in Miami. Dagoberto Rodríguez Sanchez was born 1969 in Caibarién, Las Villas and graduated from Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA), La Habana, Cuba in 1994. Upon finishing his Arts degree in 1994, he spent another three months of compulsory military service. In 1992 he co-founded the historic artistic collective Los Carpintero (1992-2018). Currently working between Madrid and Havana, Rodríguez combines architecture, design and sculpture, using humor and irony to express himself on core themes in art, politics and society. His work is in permanent collections of major institutions such as MOMA, Whitney Museum of American Art, Guggenheim in New York, Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, Tate Modern in London and Museo Centro de Arte Reina Sofia in Madrid among others.

The title and the works exhibited in *Crystal Planet* alert us to the earth's vulnerabilities. The exhibition is, as Aluna Curatorial Collective states, "a space to face the winds of political anomie and ecological destruction. The title and the works exhibited in *Crystal Planet* are a measurement of our vulnerability and activate various warning signs that in some way interrupt the vertiginous nature of a critical time." Watercolor landscapes of sinking remind us that we inhabit this Crystal Planet, and that it is increasingly urgent to find ways of living together that not only protect our species, but also prevent the extinction of other kingdoms. In other watercolors, as the curators explain, Rodríguez takes up the monumental design of complex architectures particularly inspired by fascist dreams of dominance and surveillance, and transmutes them into spaces of "paideia"— fictional places for shared learning, and/or communal ways of living out of the shadows. In recent years Rodríguez has drawn labyrinthine tunnels

which, behind their beauty, harbor the terrible possibility of trapping you within them. Now, Rodríguez invites us to enter his *Túnel*, a large interactive tunnel which he designed throughout 2020. This time, there is an exit, not only within the exhibition space, but within the passage of the present that we fulfill by daring to imagine: "Think for example—he says—of a world in which it would be possible to be happy where you are born." To the curators' point, "Rodríguez uses, but simultaneously transcends, the deconstructive strategies of parody and play, of humor and political irony, and ends up building a scenario that proposes an immersion in the possibility of imagining alternate futures."

In December 2018, with a space established in Garzón, Uruguay, Piero Atchugarry expanded his program to North America to a warehouse in Miami's renowned Design District neighborhood. A 9,000-square-foot art space, the **Piero Atchugarry Gallery** is committed to supporting and presenting the work of local and international artists with an institutional approach.

The public opening reception of *Planeta de Cristal* will take place Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> from 6pm to 9pm at Piero Atchugarry Gallery. The reception is free and open to the public, with tickets available on [Eventbrite](#). To ensure public health and safety of attendees, tickets will be limited to a maximum of 50 guests each hour.

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For more information, high resolution images, and to arrange an interview with Dagoberto Rodríguez, Aluna Curatorial Collective or Piero Atchugarry, please contact [bmcghee@pieroatchugarry.com](mailto:bmcghee@pieroatchugarry.com) or at (786) 3904725.

Visit the Piero Atchugarry Gallery at

[www.pieroatchugarry.com](http://www.pieroatchugarry.com)

The Piero Atchugarry Gallery is located at 5520 NE 4th Avenue, Miami FL 33137.