## ALBANO SELF PORTRAIT

Albano Afonso: Self-Portrait as Light is co-organized by CAC Curator Steven Matijcio and 21C Museum Director and Chief Curator Alice Gray Stites. It runs through August 30, 2015.

This is Afonso's first major exhibition in the United States, and it extends across the CAC and 21c Museum Hotel. Self-Portrait as Light is generously supported by Lynne Meyers Gordon, M.F.A., Dr. Stephen and Sandra Joffe, Jim & Linda Miller and ArtsWave Corporate Partner: Western & Southern Financial Group. Special thanks go to Casa Triângulo Gallery, Sao Paulo, for their exceptional assistance and support.

For Brazilian artist Albano Afonso (b.1964, São Paulo), light is the elusive but no less essential element that makes painting, photography, film and vision itself possible. Through perforated and luminous objects he gives light a sculptural presence, embracing its ability to simultaneously elucidate and obscure. This dichotomy is spoken through the language of art history as Afonso reformulates time-honored traditions of portraiture, still life and landscape. In the titular 2001 series Self-Portrait as Light, Afonso photographed his reflection in windows and mirrors with the flash on, replacing his head with a stunning burst of light. His ongoing Nature Morte series casts skeletal models in the glittering

guise of a disco ball – turning melancholic lament into euphoric stargazing. Afonso's exploration of the anatomy of light also pierces the human body as seen in porous self-portraits where the artist inserts images of himself into the faces of artists such as Dürer, Rembrandt, Goya and Titian. His more recent work refracts and crystallizes the play of light across exotic landscapes, transforming dense jungle into a painterly kaleidoscope. Taken as a whole, Afonso's work gathers into luminous constellations: speaking in a collective voice to the artist as an evolving collection – and reflection – of the people and places that surround us.