

# MISHKIN GALLERY

## MISHKIN GALLERY TO PRESENT EXHIBITION OF EXPERIMENTAL CONTEMPORARY PUERTO RICAN ART



Chemi Rosado, *sunset sand sofa*, 2011, 1st Gran Bienal Tropical, curated by Pablo Leon de la Barra, La Comai, Loíza, Puerto Rico. Photo courtesy: Cesar and Mima Reyes

***We didn't ask permission, we just did it...***

**August 31–December 8, 2023 at Mishkin Gallery  
135 E 22nd St, New York, NY 10010**

Mishkin Gallery is pleased to present *We didn't ask permission, we just did it...*, a vibrant and experimental exhibition guest curated by Manuela Paz and Christopher Rivera of Embajada. The show revisits and honors the legacy of three historic exhibition series in Puerto Rico from 2000 to 2016 that foregrounded the independent spirit of art making across the region during a time of hopeful possibility. Those three exhibition histories include M&M Proyectos' *PR invitationals*, organized by Michy Marxuach; the *Gran Tropical Bienals*, founded by Pablo León de la Barra; and *Cave-In*, initiated by Mike Egan.

The exhibitions, which took the form of idiosyncratic biennials, happenings, and installations, have had lasting impacts on practicing artists and in part spurred the self-reliant gallery community that flourishes in San Juan, Puerto Rico today. Drawing on the archives of each project, the exhibition features a selection of works by Puerto Rican and international artists working in an array of unconventional materials, along with documentation and ephemera. Taking place during an era of bankruptcy and political tension, the curators and artists in the exhibition embraced the ruins of modernity and empire and perceived anything as possible. *We didn't ask permission, we just did it...* conveys the sense of ambition, collective action, and self-sufficiency of experimental artist communities despite infrastructural limitations.

Rather than serve as a static repository, the archives from which this exhibition is built are still expanding. They provide creative opportunities for curatorial interaction, collaborative investigation, and trans-disciplinary experimentation. Throughout the duration of the exhibition, students from Baruch College will engage with the exhibition, actively taking part in researching and producing oral history projects and zines connected to the

### **MISHKIN GALLERY**

Baruch College, CUNY  
135 E. 22nd st. at Lexington  
New York, NY

@mishkingallery  
mishkingallery.baruch.cuny.edu

# MISHKIN GALLERY

relatively new history. Artists and curators from Puerto Rico will be invited to expand the understanding of their work through public talks, podcasts, performances, and workshops while also activating local collaborations with the Puerto Rican diasporic arts community throughout New York City.

The exhibition is guest curated by Manuela Paz and Christopher Rivera of Embajada, an independent, self-funded gallery founded in San Juan in 2015. Named after the Spanish word for embassy, Embajada serves as a bridge connecting artists on the island with the rest of the world, fostering connections to the contemporary art world. Inspired by the spirit of experimentation in the region and following the groundbreaking exhibitions by Marxuach, de la Barra, and Egan, Embajada expands upon its mission by highlighting these three key projects that had a hand in shaping many artists' practices both in the region and internationally.

We didn't ask permission, we just did it... *has been curated by Manuela Paz and Christopher Rivera of Embajada. Major support is provided by Hedwig Feit and the Schindler-Lizana Fund for Latin American Arts and Culture. Additional support is provided by The Jacques and Natasha Gelman Foundation. The exhibition is made possible by Friends of the Mishkin Gallery and the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences at Baruch College (CUNY). An earlier iteration of this exhibition was presented at The Contemporary Art Museum (CAM) St. Louis in 2022.*

## **Artists** (list in formation)

Allora & Calzadilla, Lucas Blalock, Borden Capalino, Carolina Caycedo, Lourdes Correa-Carlo, Edmee Feyyo, Radamés "Juni" Figueroa, Jorge González Santos, Vanessa Hernández Garcia, Federico Herrero, Alana Iturralde, Jessica Kaire, Ajay Kurian, Ignacio González Lang, José Lerma, Liliana Porter, Daniel Lind Ramos, Matilsha Marxuach, Lionel Maunz, Andy Meerow, Jesús "Bubu" Negrón, Damián Ortega, Ernesto Pujol, Dhara Rivera, Jorge Rivera, Joel "Yoyo" Rodriguez, Monica Rodriguez, Marxz Rosado, Chemi Rosado-Seijo, Beatriz Santiago Muñoz, Chaveli Sifre, Edra Soto, Andra Ursuta, and Alterazioni Video.

## **About Embajada**

Founded in 2015, and named after the Spanish word for embassy, Embajada is a gallery based in San Juan, Puerto Rico which serves as a bridge connecting artists on the island with the rest of the world, fostering connections to the contemporary art world. For more information, visit [embajadada.com](http://embajadada.com).

## **About Mishkin Gallery**

Mishkin Gallery at Baruch College, City University of New York (CUNY) presents exhibitions and public programs dedicated to education and advancing the understanding of modern and contemporary art, interdisciplinary cultural activity, and innovative artistic practice from around the world. Extending Baruch beyond its campus, the Mishkin Gallery promotes projects by artists and scholars who demonstrate how and why creative practice is a crucial force in nurturing diversity, tolerance and shaping culture.

Follow Mishkin Gallery on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Tiktok](#), and visit their [website here](#).

## **Press Contacts**

Mishkin Gallery  
[mishkingallery@baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:mishkingallery@baruch.cuny.edu)

## **MISHKIN GALLERY**

Baruch College, CUNY  
135 E. 22nd st. at Lexington  
New York, NY

@mishkingallery  
[mishkingallery.baruch.cuny.edu](http://mishkingallery.baruch.cuny.edu)