

## Columbia University's Wallach Art Gallery Presents *Relational Undercurrents: Contemporary Art of the Caribbean Archipelago*

**New York, June 1, 2018**—Columbia University's Wallach Art Gallery is proud to present the far-reaching survey exhibition *Relational Undercurrents: Contemporary Art of the Caribbean Archipelago*, on view through September 23, 2018. Featuring recent works by more than 70 artists with roots in more than a dozen islands of the Caribbean, the exhibition is being presented by the Wallach at its new home on Columbia's Manhattanville campus, in the Lenfest Center for the Arts. The Wallach is dividing the large-scale presentation with its neighboring institution in West Harlem, **the Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling, which will show its own portion of the exhibition from June 28 through September 23.**

*Relational Undercurrents* encompasses painting, sculpture, photography, video, installation and performance, grouping the works into four thematic sections: Conceptual Mappings, Perpetual Horizons, Landscape Ecologies and Representational Acts. Among the notable artists featured in the exhibition are Allora & Calzadilla, María Magdalena Campos-Pons, Tony Capellán, Christopher Cozier, Edouard Duval-Carrié, Maria Elena González, Marlon Griffith, Quisqueya Henríquez and Beatriz Santiago Muñoz.

Central to the concept of the exhibition is the understanding that despite the variegated colonial histories of the islands represented—Aruba, the Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Curaçao, the Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Puerto Rico, St. Martin and Trinidad and Tobago—thematic continuities run through the contemporary art that has arisen from them. By focusing not on individual islands but on the sweep of the archipelago, the exhibition proposes a way to look at today's Latin American art, starting from the perspective of the Caribbean rather than the mainland.

"Since New York enjoys one of the largest pan-Caribbean populations in the world, it's crucial to engage with the rich contemporary art connected to our city," says Deborah Cullen, director and chief curator of the Wallach Art Gallery. "This exhibition also provides students and scholars a special opportunity to access English, Dutch, French and Spanish production all in one place."

"The exhibition draws analogies to initiatives in literary studies that seek to locate a distinct Caribbean poetics... in spite of the narrative of difference, fragmentation and heterogeneity that dominates the popular imaginary," said curator Tatiana Flores, associate professor of art history and Latino and Caribbean studies at Rutgers University, who received her Ph.D. from Columbia's Department of Art History and Archaeology in 2003.

*Relational Undercurrents* advances, and responds to, the groundbreaking survey exhibition *Caribbean: Art at the Crossroads of the World*, that was organized in 2012 by El Museo del Barrio (where Deborah Cullen was director of curatorial programs at the time) and presented in conjunction with The Studio Museum in Harlem and the Queens Museum of Art. The exhibition is accompanied by a comprehensive full-color catalog.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2018

**Relational Undercurrents: Symposium**

Artists and noted scholars respond to the exhibition and share new scholarship. Registration required.  
For more information, visit: <https://wallach.columbia.edu/>

*Relational Undercurrents: Contemporary Art of the Caribbean Archipelago* was organized by the Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA), Long Beach, California for the Getty Foundation's PST: LA/LA initiative.

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For more information, visit [wallach.columbia.edu](https://wallach.columbia.edu)

## About the Miriam & Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery

Established in 1986, the Wallach Art Gallery is the University's premier visual arts space. It is a platform for critically acclaimed exhibitions, a dynamic range of programming and publications that contribute to scholarship. The Gallery advances Columbia's historical, critical and creative engagement with the visual arts. Serving as both a laboratory and a forum, the Wallach Art Gallery offers opportunities for curatorial practice and discourse, while bridging the diverse approaches to the arts at the University with a welcome broader public. It presents projects that are organized by graduate students and faculty in the Department of Art History and Archaeology or by other Columbia scholars, focus on the contemporary artists of the campus and communities and offer new scholarship on the University's special collections.