

Research Grant – Spring 2014

Faculty member: Cesar Cornejo

Unit: School of Art and Art History

Project/Proposal Title: Museo de las Americas Group Exhibition Project

Abstract:

I have been invited by curator Tatiana Flores to participate in a group exhibition about Contemporary Peruvian Art to take place at the Museo de las Americas in Washington DC in November 2014. This exhibition will focus in figurative art and will give me the opportunity to exhibit a new body of work.

The negative effects of the relationship between human and nature are well known. In this regard the work that I will make for this exhibition will raise awareness of the extent to which the structure of our bodies and its form is been altered by it.

Proposal:

I have been invited by curator Tatiana Flores to participate in a group exhibition about Contemporary Peruvian Art to take place at the Museo de las Americas in Washington DC in November 2014. Dr. Tatiana Flores, is Associate Professor of Latino and Hispanic Caribbean Studies at Rutgers University, she has recently published the book Mexico's Revolutionary Avant-Gardes, published by Yale University Press and has written articles for Art Nexus, Revista, the Harvard Review of Latin American Art, and Woman's Art Journal.

This exhibition will focus in figurative art and will give me the opportunity to exhibit a new body of work never exhibited before.

This is a particularly important exhibition because it will present a selection of Peruvian Contemporary artists in the Museum in the Capital of the United States. The Art Museum of the Americas was created by the Organization of the American States and its history dates back from 1917 and with its current name and location since 1976. The museum showcases cutting edge art of the Americas and promotes cultural exchange.

My work over the years has dealt with the relationship between art and architecture, and more specifically the ways in which sculpture synthesizes architectural concepts and vice versa. Most of the works that I have produced have explored the former although I have always found the later as important, in particular in relation to the role that sculpture played in architecture from the renaissance period. My admiration for the sculpture masters of that era has driven me to produce a body of work that explores the expressive power of the human figure to address issues related to contemporary culture. These sculptures will also explore the conflictive relationship between human and nature, through the use of the classical figure.

The negative effects of the relationship between human and nature are well known to us, we see their evidence in the damage that we have caused and continue to cause to the environment. Although it was not until relatively recently, that we started to notice the extent to which the presence of toxic materials in the air, food and water slowly poisons us and gradually alters our bodies' structure, causing disease and premature death.

Renaissance sculpture was used to portray the idea of perfection of the human body. The choice of using this kind of expression altering through the insertion of man-made objects, like plastic bottles, phones, aluminum cans, etc., with which we interact daily and that slowly change our

bodies, will send a strong visual message and become a reminder of the extent to which we are being affected by our actions in nature. The works will be cast in marble like resin, which will make the reference to classical sculpture even stronger, and ironically will be plastic itself.

Since in this exhibition I will be representing my country, it will have particular importance for my career and is likely to have positive outcomes nationally and internationally. A catalogue will be printed featuring this body of work.