

## GALERIE RON MANDOS

Over 20 years, Galerie Ron Mandos has earned its place of prominence within the Dutch art scene. First opening its doors in Rotterdam in 1999, it has since accrued a roster of over 30 artists from around the globe, becoming an integral nexus-point for artists at all stages of their career. In 2010, the gallery moved to its current location in the Amsterdam gallery district. In its pursuit of new developments within contemporary art and facilitated by its spacious venue, the gallery presents large scale, immersive installations as well as international group exhibitions. The voices of an impressive assembly of established talent such as Daniel Arsham, Hans Op de Beeck, Isaac Julien, Remy Jungerman and Erwin Olaf tell poignant stories and shape the core of our public debate. The gallery's mission is to platform artworks that embody the sophisticated relationship between artist, artwork, and society.

## ABOUT THE CURATOR

Cristina Vives, based in Havana and Madrid, is a distinguished independent art curator and critic with a rich background in contemporary art and photography since the early 80's. She co-founded Estudio Figueroa-Vives in 1994, which stands as one of the first independent contemporary art spaces in Cuba with an international scope. Vives has an extensive portfolio, having published books and curated exhibitions about significant contemporary Cuban artists in Cuba, the United States, and Europe. Notably her recent books and museum traveling retrospective on Belkis Ayón in the United States (2016-2020) culminated at the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía in Madrid in 2021.

## ADDRESS

Galerie Ron Mandos  
Prinsengracht 282  
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## OPENING HOURS

Wed - Sat: 12pm - 6pm  
Sun: 12pm - 5pm

## CONTACT

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# THE PERMANENT JOURNEY

DREAMS AND  
EXPERIENCES  
OF TEN  
CONTEMPORARY  
CUBAN ARTISTS



11 NOV - 7 JAN

GALERIE  
RON MANDOS

# The Permanent Journey Dreams and Experiences of Ten Contemporary Cuban Artists

Curated by Cristina Vives, and  
co-curated by Lars Been (Galerie  
Ron Mandos)

Featured artists: Belkis Ayón, Yoan Capote, Alejandro Campins, Fernando Rodríguez Falcón, José A. Figueroa, René Francisco Rodríguez, Jacqueline Maggi, Marta María Pérez Bravo, Linet Sánchez Gutiérrez, Tomás Sánchez

Generally connected to the sole idea of migration, traveling has been a permanent topic in Cuban art and literature, and in the study of our identity. In its closest sense of physical displacement, or as action of embarking on a project, or even as metaphor of an escape from the present and construction of a future, traveling, under the present circumstances of the Cuban context, frequently means abandoning the island and not returning. Thus understood, the journey may appear as the circle of personal, economic, political or ideological conflicts. Always influenced by the ideology and politics, traveling has always been a frequent theme in the lives of hundreds of thousands of Cuban families scattered today in very diverse latitudes, and naturally, a topic of conflicts and radical rupture between generations of Cubans.



José A. Figueroa, *From the Exile series, Olga, Havana*, Gelatin silver print on Ilford multigrade paper, 24,5 x 36,5 cm (print), 1967 (printed in 1998)



Yoan Capote, *Retrato de familia* (Family portrait), Vintage engraved mirrors, Variable dimensions, 2023

However, the journey is indeed more than that. It is a particular capacity of human beings to extend the borders of their minds and bodies. This is especially notorious when these human beings are artists. They can travel into themselves and exit, go back and forth from their specific geographies with the help of their imagination or spirit; and even if the trip never takes place, they are able to transmit to us that sense of freedom that is present in any attempted journey.

Thinking "the journey" is also undertaking it. It is an exercise of cognitive and spiritual preparation. A permanent learning about our immediate environment and about ourselves. It demands from us the reasons or pretended intentions we have to achieve it, and many times makes us reconsider the here and now of our lives. Nothing closer to undertaking a trip than to place ourselves in the depths of the space and time we have to live.

Conceived as four sections, the exhibition *The Permanent Journey* explores, without exhausting them, some of the concepts of journey that appear in the work of ten of the most outstanding contemporary Cuban artists. Each one of them traces possible roads to cover - in fact, they have covered them - and therefore the authenticity of the life experience they transmit.

Text by Cristina Vives, Curator



Fernando Rodríguez Falcón, *Untitled* (detail), Paper pulp from Atlas de Cuba, triptych; 145 x 117 x 2 cm each, 2023