

An abstract painting by Pedro Vélez, featuring a complex composition of overlapping, textured brushstrokes in a wide range of colors including purple, orange, blue, green, and brown. The overall effect is one of dynamic energy and emotional intensity.

LILIANA  
[.] BLOCH  
GALLERY

MARCH 6 - APRIL 30, 2020

“Emotional Hurricanes,  
Political Earthquakes,  
Quiet Protests,  
Neurotic Tweets”  
Pedro Vélez

# artist statement

"EMOTIONAL HURRICANES, POLITICAL EARTHQUAKES, QUIET PROTESTS, NEUROTIC TWEETS"

*Do public confessionals of daily affirmations on Instagram heal a broken heart faster than affirming one's self-worthiness in private therapy? Is journalism to blame for the neurotic emotional state of Americans? Which came first: the tweet or the policy?*

Pedro Vélez's new body of work originates in simple, meaningful acts, like caressing the tangled hair of a loved one. These tangled lines can also be seen in a series of paintings depicting the twisted cords of non-responsive window blinds, the internet "tubes", or the fallen cables from the electric infrastructure left after the destruction of hurricane María. His disjointed lines lead us to vistas of coral reefs visible through the blinds. For Vélez, coral reefs serve as affirmative metaphors against climate change deniers as well as natural regenerative processes of emotional healing. In the series *Emotional Backpatches*, Vélez portrays anonymous protesters wearing nostalgic jean jackets scrawled with their innermost feelings embodied in back patches. Vélez body of work encapsulates how intimacy is disrupted, occupied, and influenced by our digital selves, and the wild, uncontained landscape of political bots, social media alerts, relentless news cycles, disinformation campaigns, and emojis.

# artist statement

"EMOTIONAL HURRICANES, POLITICAL EARTHQUAKES, QUIET PROTESTS, NEUROTIC TWEETS"

\*Note: At the beginning of 2017 Lilliana Bloch and Pedro Vélez started planning this exhibition. But in September of that year hurricane María struck the island. The rest is history.



# installation views

"EMOTIONAL HURRICANES, POLITICAL EARTHQUAKES, QUIET PROTESTS, NEUROTIC TWEETS"



LILIANA  
[.] BLOCH  
GALLERY

# installation views

"EMOTIONAL HURRICANES, POLITICAL EARTHQUAKES, QUIET PROTESTS, NEUROTIC TWEETS"



# installation views

"EMOTIONAL HURRICANES, POLITICAL EARTHQUAKES, QUIET PROTESTS, NEUROTIC TWEETS"

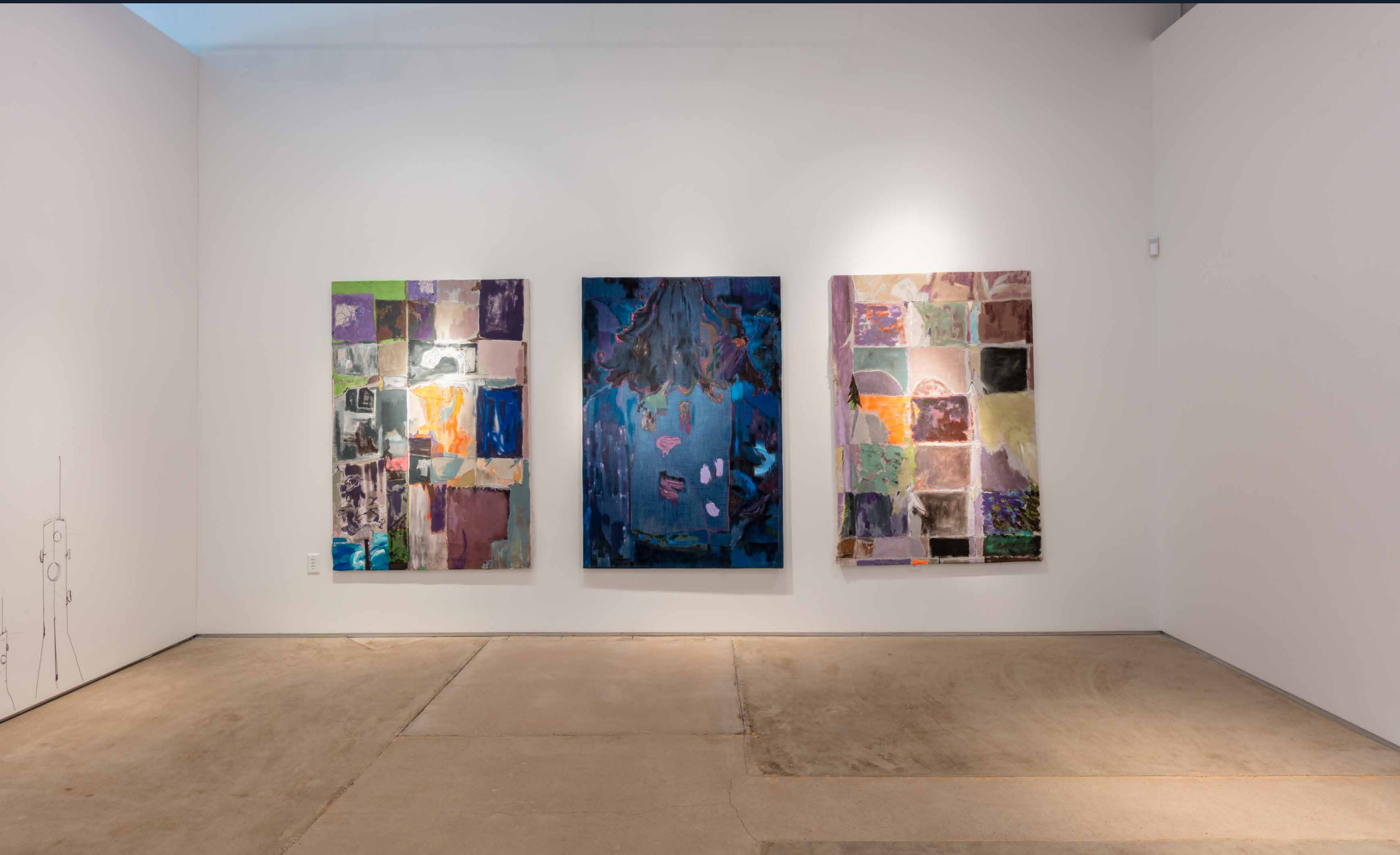




LILIANA  
[.] BLOCH  
GALLERY

# installation views

"EMOTIONAL HURRICANES, POLITICAL EARTHQUAKES, QUIET PROTESTS, NEUROTIC TWEETS"



LILIANA  
[.] BLOCH  
GALLERY

# installation views

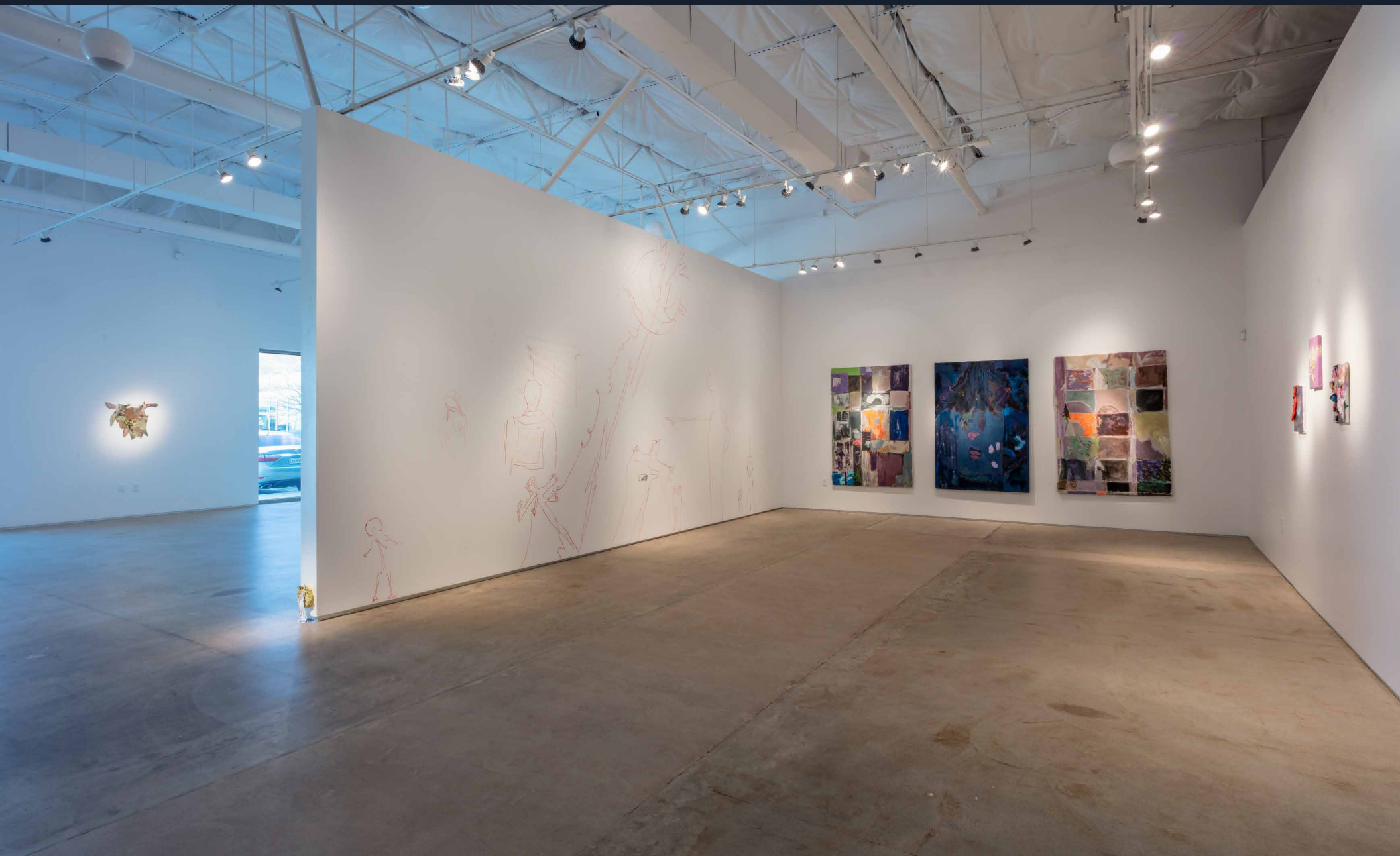
"EMOTIONAL HURRICANES, POLITICAL EARTHQUAKES, QUIET PROTESTS, NEUROTIC TWEETS"





# installation views

"EMOTIONAL HURRICANES, POLITICAL EARTHQUAKES, QUIET PROTESTS, NEUROTIC TWEETS"



# “Machete with Hurricaned Black Eye”

2020, ACRYLIC, SPRAY PAINT, ACRYLIC PAINT ACCUMULATIONS ON RIPPED CURTAIN, AND MACHETE, 27"W X 25"H X 3"D



# “Through the Blinds a Fault Line”

2020, ACRYLIC, SPRAY PAINT ON CURTAIN (REPURPOSED HURRICANE  
MARÍA DEBRIS), AND SCULPTED ACRYLIC PAINT, 48W" X 63.5H"





# “News Alert, Every Single Day Now”

2020, SHARPIE AND BALL POINT PEN, DIMENSIONS VARIABLE



# “The Weight of The World”

2020, ACRYLIC PAINT, SPRAY PAINT, SCULPTED ACRYLIC PAINT  
ON FOLDED PAPER MOUNTED ON CANVAS, 11.5W" X 17H" X 1.5"D



# “Naked Facing Nature #2”

2020, SCULPTED ACRYLIC PAINT, AND ACRYLIC ON PAPER, 7"W X 10"H X 2.5"D





# “Affirmations”

2020, SHARPIE, BALL POINT PEN, DIMENSIONS VARIABLE



“Americans in Flint, Americans in Puerto Rico, Americans in Nestlé”

2017 - 2020, ACRYLIC PAINT ON DROP CLOTH CANVAS



“Su Pelo Rizo (Her tangled Hair)”

2020, ACRYLIC PAINT ON FABRIC, 48"W X 70"H





# “Mia in Her Urban Yard”

2020, ACRYLIC PAINT ON CANVAS, ON RIPPED CANVAS, 48"W X 70"H



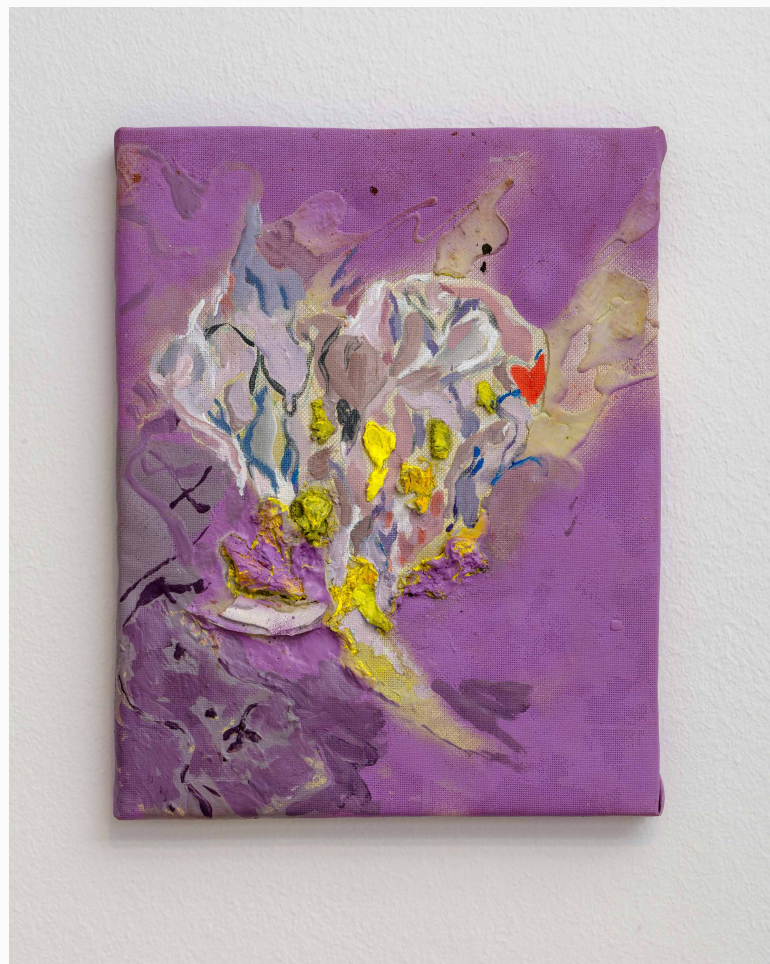
# “Her Tangled Hair”

2019, ACRYLIC AND SCULPTED ACRYLIC PAINT ON CANVAS, 13"W X 14"H X 3.5"D



# “Elephant”

2019, ACRYLIC AND ACRYLIC PAINT ACCUMULATIONS ON POROUS,  
VINYL CURTAIN MATERIAL WRAPPED ON CANVAS, 11"W X 14"H





## “You Always Find a Way to Get Your Nose Bleed”

2020, ACRYLIC PAINT, SCULPTED ACRYLIC PAINT ON PAPER MOUNTED ON FOLDED CANVAS, 12"W X 14"H X 3.5"D



# “Electric Dreams”

2019, ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, 11"W X 14"H X 3"D



“Escuchando danza luego del huracán (Listening to Danza After The Hurricane)”

2017-2019, ACRYLIC AND BLEACH ON WEATHERED CANVAS, SCULPTED  
ACRYLIC PAINT ON OVERSIZED PUSH PINS, 47"W X 47"H (PINS 2"W X 1"H EACH)





# biography

PEDRO VÉLEZ

Pedro Vélez is a painter. Throughout his career he has employed a wide range of mediums including painting with photography, large-scale collages, printed ephemera, and web-based works. His interest in journalism is apparent in his “visual essays” dealing with the tone in which information is filtered through headline news, social media and politics, and how that information affects and coerces morality, personal space, race relations, mood and feelings. Taken together, Vélez’s body of work creates a vibrant, stream-of-consciousness commentary that can be scathingly critical as well as poetically cryptic.

Vélez was featured in the historic survey *Net Art Anthology: Retelling the History of Net Art from the 1980s Through the Present Day*, curated by Michael Connor and Rhizome in New York. He has an upcoming solo exhibition at Liliana Bloch Gallery in Dallas in 2021, and Season Gallery in Seattle, Washington will present his work at Future Fair in New York in May. He has also been included in *JUNTXS: Selections from the Hernández Catrodad Collection*, curated by Dianne Brás Feliciano, at the Museum of Art and Design of Miramar in Puerto Rico opening in March 2020.

Recent exhibitions and presentations include Affirmations: Social Media, Love and Healing in the Age of María (solo) at El Cuadrado Gris, SJU; Disaster Capitalism (performative lecture) at the PRSA 13th Biennial Conference at Rutgers University; Beyond the Canvas: Contemporary Art from Puerto Rico, curated by Monica Ramírez-Montagut and Warren James, at the Newcomb Museum in New Orleans; Human Human, curated by Jessica Cochran at Ralph Arnold, Loyola University in Chicago; Oppositions, The Luminary in St. Louis; Whitney Biennial 2014; #DrunkDictators (On The Wall installation) at Monique Meloche Gallery, Chicago.

Vélez obtained his B.A. in Communications at the Universidad del Sagrado Corazón in Puerto Rico and an M.F.A. from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. His work as an artist has been discussed in Artforum, Glasstire, Chicago Tribune, Pelican Bomb, Star Tribune, Miami Herald, Daily Serving, Hyperallergic, and Frieze among many others. For 12 years Pedro Vélez worked as a cultural critic for Artnet Magazine and Newcity Chicago, and his writing has been published in New Art Examiner, Art F City, Modern Painters and Arte al Día. He was also the founder of the notorious blog El Box Score in San Juan.

The artist retired from professional art criticism in 2013. He lives and makes art in Puerto Rico.

# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

## EDUCATION

- 1999 Master of Fine Arts  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
Chicago, IL
- 1995 Bachelor of Arts  
Communications  
Universidad del Sagrado Corazón  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

## SEL. SOLO SHOWS

- 2020 *Emotional Hurricanes, Political Earthquakes, Quiet Protests, Neurotic Tweets*  
Liliana Bloch Gallery at 214 Projects  
Dallas, Texas
- 2019 *Affirmations: Social Media, Love and Healing in the Age of María*  
curated by Anna Astor  
El Cuadrado Gris  
Barrio Obrero, Puerto Rico
- 2017 *Emojis, Lies, Instagram Muses and Fake News*  
Latino Arts, Inc.  
Milwaukee, WI

2015

*Revealing Nature: Private and Social Portraits*  
curated by Claudia Arzeno  
Portrait Society  
Milwaukee, WI

*Ransom Notes and Surrender Flags*  
collaboration with Robert Davis, LM Rodríguez, Vincent Dermody, Maya Mackrandilal, Michael Wynne  
AREA  
Caguas, Puerto Rico

2014

*#MorallyReprehensible*  
curated by Kevin Van Gorp  
101/EXHIBIT  
Los Angeles, CA

*#DrunkDictators*  
"On The Wall" installation  
Monique Meloche Gallery  
Chicago, IL

*#Protest Signs*  
Galería Obra Alegría  
San Juan, Puerto Rico



# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

- |             |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|
| <p>2009</p> | <p><i>The Day of the Corrupt:<br/>Our fathers left US shit</i><br/>Western Exhibitions<br/>Chicago, IL</p>                          | <p><i>Devil in Lamb UC</i><br/>curated by Tito Rovira<br/>Tristán Reyes studio<br/>Miramar, Puerto Rico</p>   |
| <p>2007</p> | <p><i>Epilepsy, Pegatina and Adult Porn</i><br/>Plush Gallery<br/>Dallas, TX</p>  | <p><i>Paintings 1999-2003</i><br/>Western Exhibitions<br/>Chicago, IL</p>   |
| <p>2006</p> | <p><i>Godfuck</i><br/>Galeria Comercial<br/>San Juan, Puerto Rico</p> <p><i>Godfuck</i><br/>Western Exhibitions<br/>Chicago, IL</p> | <p>2002</p> <p><i>Pretending to Pretend</i><br/>with Yuki Kimura<br/>collaborations with Matt Hanner<br/>curated by Joseph Del Pesco<br/>The Soap Factory<br/>Minneapolis, MN</p> |
| <p>2005</p> | <p><i>Uni Las Vas Rasfur Falut</i><br/>Ingalls &amp; Associates<br/>Miami, FL</p>   | <p><i>Cute Girls, Heavy Metal, Sports and Hope</i><br/>Museo de las Américas<br/>San Juan, Puerto Rico</p>  |
| <p>2004</p> | <p><i>Hell in LAMB UC:<br/>New Drawings and Collages</i><br/>Western Exhibitions<br/>Chicago, IL</p>                                | <p><i>Cute Girls, Heavy Metal, Sports and Hope</i><br/>Thomas Blackman Associates<br/>Chicago, IL</p>   |
| <p>2003</p> | <p><i>Ann Lee and the Devil in Lamb UC</i><br/>curated by Tall Rickards<br/>Rectangle Space<br/>Miami, FL</p>                       | <p>1999</p> <p><i>Corporate Paintings</i><br/>AMX: XIGITAL Corporate Offices<br/>Guaynabo, Puerto Rico</p>  |
|             |   | <p>1996</p> <p><i>Supension Superstar</i><br/>Galeria Raices<br/>San Juan, Puerto Rico</p>  |

# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

## SEL. GROUP SHOWS

2020 *JUNTXS: Selections from the Hernández Catrodad Collection*  
curated by Dianne Brás Feliciano  
Museum of Art and Design of Miramar  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

*Edición 25/25: Outstanding alumni of the Universidad del Sagrado Corazón*  
curated by Norma Vila  
Galería de Arte USC  
Santurce, Puerto Rico

2017 *Beyond the Canvas: Contemporary Art From Puerto Rico*  
curated by Warren James and  
Mónica Ramírez-Montagut  
Newcomb Art Museum  
Tulane University  
New Orleans, LA

*Human Human*  
curated by Jessica Cochran  
Ralph Arnold Gallery  
Loyola University Chicago  
Chicago, IL

2016 *White Feelings*  
curated by Albert Stabler  
Figure One Gallery  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Champaign, IL

2016 -  
2019 *Net Art Anthology: Retelling the History of Net Art from the 1980s Through the Present Day*  
curated by Michael Connor  
Rhizome in affiliation with  
the New Museum  
New York, NY  
online  
[anthology.rhizome.org](http://anthology.rhizome.org)

2015 *Estado: Experiencia Fragmentada*  
catalog  
Museo de Arte de Caguas  
Caguas, Puerto Rico

*Manipulaciones o la recodificación del medio*  
curated by Melissa Ramos  
catalog  
Proyecto Local  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

- Robert Davis Featuring  
Law Office Presents  
Anonymous Gallery  
Mexico City, Mexico
- 2014 Whitney Biennial 2014  
curated by Michelle Grabner,  
Anthony Elms and Stuart Commer  
Whitney Museum of American Art  
New York, NY
- ARTECHO - A remix of Abundance:  
Constructing Sustainability  
curated by Tam Gryn and  
Alejandra Esayag  
Sun West Studios  
New York, NY
- The End  
Paxton Moore Gallery  
El Centro College  
Dallas, TX
- The End  
curated by Randall Garrett  
Paxton Moore Gallery  
El Centro College  
Dallas, TX
- The End  
curated by Randall Garrett  
Law Office  
NEWD Art Show  
New York, NY
- No Regrets  
with Michael Wynne  
Oliver Francis Gallery  
Dallas, TX
- 2013 A Study in Midwestern Appropriation  
collaboration with Shelleen Greene  
and Sara Daleiden  
curated by Michelle Grabner  
Hyde Park Art Center  
Chicago, IL
- 2012 Contemporary Passions: American,  
European, and Latin American Art from  
the Serapión and Belk Collection  
Museo de Arte de Ponce  
Ponce, Puerto Rico
- 2011 Eraser  
curated by Rachel Furnari  
Magnan Metz  
New York, NY

# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

*Photography Now: National Survey*  
curated by Mercedes Trelles  
Institute of Puerto Rican Culture  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

*Hyperbole: Kate Brandt and Pedro Vélez*  
curated by Danielle Rosen  
Gallery M  
Hotel Intercontinental  
Milwaukee, WI

2010 *Cold as Hell: The Great Chicago Biennial*  
*2012 Presents Matt Hanner*  
curated by John Riepenhoff  
Sullivan Galleries  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
Chicago, IL

*No Soul For Sale*  
with The Suburban  
Tate Modern  
London, England

*Holiday in Hell*  
Galleria Nicola Ricci  
Carrara, Italy

*Desidia*  
Union's Contemporary Collector's Space  
Miramar, Puerto Rico

*Sex Sells*  
curated by Raimundo Figueroa and  
Arte Foundation  
Galería Obra  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

*Tipo-Grafiá*  
curated by Trace Líquido,  
Museo las Américas,  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

2009 *Artist Run Chicago*  
Hyde Park Art Center  
Chicago, IL

2008 *Event-Horizon*  
curated by Jennifer Schmidt  
Somerville Arts Council and SFA  
Boston, MA

Milwaukee International Art Fair  
participated with San Juan based  
collective Repuesto  
Polish Falcons Beer Hall  
Milwaukee, WI

0508  
web-based exhibition  
curated by Carmen Olmo  
0508.dondeveoarte.com  
San Juan, Puerto Rico



# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

*Adult Yuxtapositions:*  
*Hector Mendez Caratini, Raimundo*  
*Figueroa, Dávila Rinaldi, Pedro Vélez*  
curated by Raimundo Figueroa  
Arte Foundation  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

*Liv Ullman*  
*Anaerobic Digestion*  
curated by Erik Brown  
Finch Gallery  
Chicago, IL

2007 *Red Badge of Courage*  
curated by Omar Lopez-Chahoud  
Newark Center for the Arts  
Newark, NJ

*Videos on the Street*  
curated by Melissa Schubeck  
Joymore Gallery  
New York, NY

*Printed Space*  
curated by John Neff  
Western Exhibitions  
Chicago, IL

2006 *Constant Disturbance on Cultural*  
*Contamination and Foreign Agents*  
curated by Gean Moreno  
catalog  
Centro Cultural Español  
Miami, FL

*Manic and Wasted*  
curated by Randall Garret  
LMCC/Swing Space  
New York, NY

*The Earth is Flat*  
Lifebomb Gallery  
Berlin, Germany

IV Muestra de Arte Nacional  
Institute of Puerto Rican Culture  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

MACO Art Fair  
Galería Comercial  
Mexico City, Mexico

[PAM] *Cinema-Scope Featured Programs:*  
*SciFi Sort of with Cool Effects Sometimes*  
*and Sometimes Not*  
curated by Melissa Schubeck  
Scope Miami 2006  
Miami, FL

# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

2005

*The Happiest Pelpes*  
with Jorge Zeno, Gean Moreno,  
Quintín Rivera Toro  
poster catalog  
an abandoned building on 303 Tetuan  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

*Four Color Pen Show*  
traveling exhibition  
General Store  
Milwaukee, WI

*Four Color Pen Show*  
traveling exhibition  
Locust Projects  
Miami, FL

*A More Perfect Union*  
The Suburban  
Chicago, IL

*A More Perfect Union*  
Max Fish  
New York, NY

2004

*The Aging Quail:*  
*Pedro Vélez and Gean Moreno*  
Galeria Comercial  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

*Spacemakers*  
Poster Project  
with the Suburban's Political  
curated by Courtney Smith and  
Brett Bloom  
Lothringer Dreizehn  
Munich, Germany

*Don't Call it Performance*  
curated by Deborah Cullen and  
Paco Barragan  
Museo del Barrio  
New York, NY

*Don't Call it Performance*  
curated by Deborah Cullen and  
Paco Barragan  
Domus Atrium 2  
Salamanca, Spain

*Baltimore Crackhouse*  
Joymore Gallery  
New York, NY

*Lumpen Decadents*  
curated by Gean Moreno  
Ingalls & Associates  
Miami, FL

# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

*The Last Show*  
The House  
Miami, FL

*Color Therapy for Oedipal Conflicts*  
curated by Rebekah Rutkoff  
Plus Ultra  
New York, NY

2003

*Law Office, Pedro Vélez:*  
*The Fountain of Youth*  
Locust Projects  
Miami, FL

*Unrealizeable*  
with Stefano Pasquini Natalija Ribovic  
Cueva Gallery  
Milan, Italy

4th National Salon  
Institute of Puerto Rican Culture  
catalog  
Arsenal Marina  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

2002

*Plat & Form*  
curated by Nicholas Frank  
Foster Gallery  
Eau Claire, WI

Pedro Vélez / Juana Valdes  
organized by Mauricio Laffitte  
Bronx River Art Center  
New York, NY

*Architecture of Ghosts*  
curated by Joe del Pesco  
Soap Factory  
Minneapolis, MN

*Architecture of Ghosts*  
curated by Joe del Pesco  
Art Point  
Miami, FL

*Tasty Dog*  
organized by Suburban Gallery  
Atelier 25  
Krems an der Donau, Austria

*3 Point Perspective*  
JARAF Video  
New York, NY

*Lingo*  
curated by Jennifer Schmidt  
ONI Gallery  
Boston, MA

# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

Meet me in St. Louie  
Crowe T. Brooks Gallery  
St. Louis, MO

Variations  
1R Gallery  
Chicago, IL

2001

*The Good and Evil*  
curated by Jay Heikes and  
Joseph Del Pesco  
The Waiting Room Gallery  
Minneapolis, MN

SUK  
curated by Stefano Pasquini and SAM01  
Sesto Senso Gallery  
Bologna, Italy

*Library Project*  
catalog  
Temporary Services  
Chicago, IL

2000

*Pedro Vélez / Jessica Hutchins*  
Hermetic Gallery  
Milwaukee, WI

*U / Topistas*  
catalog  
M&M Proyectos  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Ralph Nader Poster Design 2000  
Monk Parakeet / The Suburban  
Chicago, IL

*X-Presiones*  
curated by Doreen Colón Camacho  
Institute of Puerto Rican Culture  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

1999

*Not on any Map*  
catalog  
curated by John Di Stefano  
Betty Rymer Gallery  
Chicago, IL

## POSTCARDS, FLYERS & VIRAL CAMPAIGNS

2009

*Oracle Betances*  
full page design  
curated by Chloé S. Georas  
"The Law Journal: Revista del Colegio  
de Abogados de Puerto Rico"  
vol. 69, p. 164  
January - February



# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

2008

*Dakis Joannou and  
the Yacht that Conquers*  
flyer  
distributed freely  
Western Exhibitions' web site  
January 3

*Teresa Tío, Arturo Madero  
and Paseo Caribe*  
3 full page designs  
curated by Teresa Lopez  
Orificio Magazine

*AICA-KK*  
xerox drawings  
edition of 80  
flyer distributed freely  
*Publica 2* exhibition  
Area  
Caguas, Puerto Rico

2006

*La Feka- The Fake*  
one paragraph on paper  
edition of 50  
as part of a lecture on my artwork  
distributed randomly  
Universidad del Sagrado Corazón  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

2003

*A Glorious Ending*  
set of 2 posters  
edition of 400  
produced by POST Public Projects  
and Keri Butler  
distributed in the streets of Miami  
during Art Basel  
Miami, FL

*Sports, Hope and Loss*  
flyers for a fake show  
organized by Shane Aslan Selzer  
published at the Poor Pony #1113  
distributed at  
The Yerba Buena Center for the Arts  
San Francisco, CA  
November

2002

*Synchronized Swimming*  
postcards  
edition of 1,000  
distributed at Artpoint Art Fair and Art  
Basel Miami  
Miami, FL

*The Architecture of Ghosts*  
signed flyers for a fake show  
edition of 70  
distributed at  
The Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

## WEB-BASED WORKS & HAPPENINGS

- 2008** *Remote Control Curators*  
online exhibition and  
free poster download  
defunct website:  
[galleryannleebonami.blogspot.com](http://galleryannleebonami.blogspot.com)
- Roadkill Born Again over Kennedy*  
online  
defunct website:  
[roadkillbornagainoverkennedy.blogspot.com](http://roadkillbornagainoverkennedy.blogspot.com)
- Día del Corrupto (It's a Holiday!)*  
live painting and erasure  
of 6 large-scale wall mural  
El CHA Performing Arts Center  
Trujillo, Puerto Rico  
video documentation:  
[msa-x-2.msa-x.org/2008/09/21/cha-con-pedro-velez-2008-el-dia-del-corrupto-its-a-holiday](http://msa-x-2.msa-x.org/2008/09/21/cha-con-pedro-velez-2008-el-dia-del-corrupto-its-a-holiday)
- 2007** *Hell in Lamb UC: The Rum Diaries*  
web based component for  
*Epilepsy, Pegatina and Adult Porn*  
Plush Gallery  
distributed via email announcement  
[myspace.com/hellinlambuc](http://myspace.com/hellinlambuc)

## SPECIAL PROJECTS FOR ART FAIRS

- 2007** *Sex, Gum, Corruption and a Dead Pony*  
curated web-based exhibition  
with Ozzie Forbes, John Neff,  
Stefano Pasquini  
Photo Miami Art Fair
- 2006** *Hell in Lamb UC*  
for Art LA  
fake announcement published in the  
last page of the fair's catalog
- 2005** *Hell in Lamb UC*  
for NADA Art Fair  
distribution of a limited edition (2,000)  
full color poster  
distributed freely on site during the  
opening of the fair by a model pushing a  
supermarket cart

## AWARDS & GRANTS

- 2018** Joan Mitchell Emergency Grant
- 2003** Public Art Commission  
POST Chicago  
two sets of posters  
installed on the streets of Wicker Park  
Chicago, IL

# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

- 2002 Sculpture Commission  
AT&T Wireless  
3 large refrigerator pieces  
Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico  
San Juan, Puerto Rico
- 2000 Exhibition Grant  
McConnell Valdés LLC  
San Juan, Puerto Rico
- 1999 Residency  
Segundo Ruíz Belvis Cultural Center  
Chicago, IL
- 1998 Scholarship Award  
World Studio Foundation  
New York, NY
- 1995 Rafael Marquez Award  
for promoting the arts:  
reactivated the  
Association of Art Students  
founded the first student run gallery at  
Universidad del Sagrado Corazón  
San Juan, Puerto Rico
- 1993 Painting Seminar Award  
studied with artist Myrna Báez at  
Universidad del Sagrado Corazón  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

- 1989 Close- Up Foundation Travel and Study  
seminar grant in  
Washington D.C.

## CURATED EXHIBITIONS

1997 of FGA (with Lena Kuffner and art critic Michael Bulka), an independent publication based in the city of Chicago. In 1999 the collective evolved into a curatorial effort housed in diverse venues between Chicago and Puerto Rico, as well as other projects developed specifically for the web and non traditional spaces.

## PUBLISHED REVIEWS & ESSAYS

- 2020 *A Battered Island Holds Its Head High*  
feature  
Gretchen Ruiz in collaboration  
with Pedro Vélez  
Public Art Review  
issue #59  
January 2020

# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

- 2015 *We Went to San Juan:  
Alternative Galleries and Austerity  
Hamstrung Triennial*  
review  
Art F City  
November 13, 2015
- 2013 *Friends Curating Friends*  
feature  
Newcity  
February 2, 2013
- 2012 *Museum Porn Arrives in the Midwest:  
The Eli and Edythe Broad Museum*  
feature  
Newcity  
November 2012
- Just Another Day:  
Pedro Vélez Around Expo Chicago*  
diary entry  
Artforum  
October 1, 2012
- Fighting a Fire: Riverwest Milwaukee*  
feature  
Newcity  
August 2012
- 2010 *Critics and the Fairpocalypse:  
Sotheby's, Munch, Frieze and NADA*  
feature  
Artnet  
May 2012
- 2010 *Music Man:  
Christian Marclay at the Whitney*  
review  
Artnet  
September 2010
- The Sport of Violence:  
The Art of Ben Stone*  
feature  
Newcity  
September 2010
- 2008 *Carlos Osorio y el Valle Criollo*  
catalog essay  
Museo de Arte de Caguas Artists
- 2008 *The Bad Economy and Art Fairs*  
opinion piece  
APT Global Insight  
summer 2008

# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

- |      |   |                |   |
|------|---|----------------|---|
| 2007 | <i>Hearts of Darkness:<br/>Steve McQueen and Hubert Sauper</i><br>review<br>Artnet<br>December 2007           | 2004           | <i>Gillian Wearing Sad Scenes</i><br>review<br>Artnet<br>June 2004                                  |
|      | <i>Posers and Rockers: Sympathy for the<br/>Devil at the MCA Chicago</i><br>review<br>Artnet<br>December 2007 | 2003 -<br>2004 | <i>Jose Lerma</i><br>review<br>Art Papers   |
| 2006 | <i>Martin Creed's Wit Fails</i><br>special report<br>Rotund World<br>May 2006                                 | 2002           | <i>Sergio Vega: Modernismo Tropical</i><br>review<br>Modern Painters<br>winter issue, p.152         |
|      | <i>The New Scenesters:<br/>Young Art and New Scene in Puerto Rico</i><br>feature<br>Artnet<br>February 2006   |                | <i>Roberto Matta Retrospective<br/>at the MCA Chicago</i><br>review<br>Modern Painters<br>Fall 2002 |
| 2005 | <i>The Fasade and Rhetoric of<br/>Ivan Navarro's Sculptures</i><br>Arte al Día<br>November 2005               |                | <i>A Tale of Two Fairs:<br/>Art Chicago, Stray Show</i><br>Artnet<br>May 2002                       |



# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

## RESIDENCIES, LECTURES, & OTHER

2018 "Nostalgia and Resistance"  
lecture  
on disaster capitalism and the culture  
press for "Collective Autogestión:  
Puerto Rican Artists and Scholars  
Combating Colonialism"  
with Dr. Karriann Soto and Gretchen Ruiz  
of Pitrre Proyectos  
PRSA 13th Biennial Conference  
Rutgers University  
October 26-28, 2018

2016 Society!  
studio residency  
curated by Jessica Cochran  
Evanston Art Center  
Chicago, IL  
July 2016

2015 Artist in Residency  
Area  
Lugar de Proyectos  
Caguas, Puerto Rico  
April - June 2015

Visual Arts Fellowship  
Judge and Keynote Speaker  
Wyoming Arts Council  
Buffalo Bill Center of the West  
Cody, WY  
April 2015

"Scanlan Taunt"  
lecture  
MFA lecture series  
University of Chicago  
Chicago, IL  
March 2015

2014 "Off Center"  
panelist  
TASA Conference  
El Centro College  
Dallas, TX  
October 23, 2014

Artist in Residency  
Universidad del Sagrado Corazón  
Santurce, Puerto Rico  
April - August 2014

Celeste Prize  
juror  
Siena, Italy

# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

- |             |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|
|             | <p>“A POC’s View From Inside the Whitney Biennial”<br/>lecture<br/>Museo Arte de Caguas<br/>Caguas, Puerto Rico</p>   | <p>2009</p> <p>“Sculptural and Moral Coercion”<br/>lecture<br/>Sculpture Department Lecture Series<br/>School of the Art Institute of Chicago<br/>Chicago, IL<br/>October 23, 2009</p>              |
| <p>2013</p> | <p>“Marginality, Humor, Poopy Painters, White Privilege, Exoticism, and the Mainstream Art Press”<br/>lecture, critiques, and think-tank with educators Shelleen Greene, Sara Delaiden<br/>MARN Saloon III<br/>Milwaukee Arts Resource Network and Latino Arts<br/>Milwaukee, WI<br/>February 15-17, 2013</p> | <p>“Art Bloggers and New Media Journalism: Puerto Rico and Beyond”<br/>panelist<br/>organized by María Arlette de la Serna<br/>Museo de Arte de Ponce<br/>Ponce, Puerto Rico<br/>August 6, 2009</p> |
| <p>2012</p> | <p>“Pedro Vélez: The Artist Critic”<br/>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign<br/>Champaign, IL<br/>April 19, 2012</p>   | <p>2008</p> <p>“Annual Student Exhibition of The School of Fine Arts of Puerto Rico”<br/>juror<br/>EAP<br/>San Juan, Puerto Rico<br/>May 2008</p>   |
| <p>2011</p> | <p>“Crisis- Free Art Criticism Salon”<br/>panelist<br/>Three Walls<br/>Chicago, IL<br/>March 1, 2011</p>  | <p>2007</p> <p>“Pedro Vélez: Making Art and Writing in Chicago”<br/>lecture<br/>Columbia College<br/>Chicago, IL<br/>September 28, 2007</p>   |

# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

“Living with Young Art”  
lecturer  
Apoyarte Foundation  
Palmas del Mar, Puerto Rico  
August 4, 2007

“Art Criticism in Puerto Rico 2:  
Impulse for the arts or useless dialogue?”  
panelist  
moderated by Elaine Delgado  
with artist Ozzie Forbes, Rafi Trelles,  
Jose Vargas, Mercedes Trelles,  
and Joel Weisntein  
Antiguo Arsenal de la Marina  
Institute of Puerto Rican Culture  
San Juan, Puerto Rico  
May 23, 2007

“Art Criticism in Puerto Rico:  
Does it Exists?”  
organizer and moderator  
with critic Joel Weinstein  
and Elaine Delgado  
Director of Fine Arts Program of the  
Institute of Puerto Rican Culture  
Sala de las Artes  
Universidad del Sagrado Corazón  
San Juan, Puerto Rico  
May 5, 2007

“Jorge Castro and the Noise”  
moderator  
Universidad Sagrado Corazón  
San Juan, Puerto Rico  
March 2007

2006

“Collateral Material in Art Fairs”  
panelist  
Circa Art Fair  
Puerto Rico Convention Center  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

“Pedro Vélez: The Fake in Art”  
lecture  
Universidad del Sagrado Corazón  
San Juan, Puerto Rico  
May 2007

2005

“The Making of the 4th Floor:  
Young Art in Puerto Rico”  
individual critiques with students  
Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, IL  
April 2005

# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

“Contemporary Photography  
in the Marketplace”  
panelist  
with collector Luis Gutierrez; artist  
Graciela Fuentes, Johnny Betancourt,  
Hector Mendez Caratini, and curator  
Marysol Nieves  
EAP  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

2003

“Artist as Curator as Writer”  
panelist  
moderated by critic Eduardo Triff  
with panelists Law Office collective and  
artist Charo Oquet  
Locust Projects  
Miami, FL

“Alternative Criticism:  
Art, Rock n’ Roll and Theatre”  
panelist  
moderated by Oli Watt  
with Jim DeRogatis  
Associated Colleges of the Midwest  
Chicago, IL

## REVIEWS, PUBLICATIONS, INTERVIEWS, ETC.

2017     *The Rum Diary*  
interview  
Simone Krug  
Rhizome  
December 2017

*Pedro Vélez’s Quiet Protest*  
review  
Kat Kneeverns  
Shepperd Express  
September 19, 2017

*Exhibition Pick*  
review  
Charlie Tatum  
Pelican Bomb  
June 20, 2017

*Puerto Rican painters who fold,  
tear and cut the canvas*  
review  
Allison Glenn  
Hyperallergic  
June 2017

# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

*Canvas is just a starting place for  
Puerto Rican contemporary artists*  
review  
John D'Addario  
New Orleans Advocate  
May 30, 2017

*Beyond the Canvas: Contemporary Art  
from Puerto Rico at Newcomb Museum*  
review  
Tori Bush  
Daily Serving  
May 2017

US Latinx Art Forum social media pages  
feature the work *Surrender Flag for  
Zombie Abstraction*  
editorial  
May 2017

2016

*How Chicago Artists Responded  
to the Laquan McDonald Video*  
Jason Foumberg  
ChicagoMag  
December 14, 2016

*Hashtags, Bouquets and Surrender Flags:  
What Pedro Vélez Knows  
and you don't*  
Brad Fiore  
Palliate Midwest (online)  
December, 2016

*Figure One to Talk About White Feelings*  
Rebecca Knaur  
Smile Politely  
June 1, 2016

*Broken Social Scene:  
Oscar Murillo's Passport Edition*  
Scott Indrisek  
Blouin Artinfo  
April 12, 2016

*How Identity Politics Conquered  
the Art World*  
Rachel Corbett, Jerry Saltz  
New York Magazine  
April 2016

*A Look Back/20th Year Anniversary*  
editorial  
Artnet  
March 25, 2016



# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

2015

*Notas y Banderas*  
interview  
Dianne Feliciano-Brás  
*Visión Doble*, (online)  
September 15, 2015

*Viva la Resistencia:*  
*Artists Vow To Stay in Puerto Rico*  
Kate Kilpatrick  
*Al Jazeera America*  
August 7, 2015

*Manipulaciones o la Recodificación*  
*del Medio*  
catalog essay  
Melissa Ramos-Borges  
p. 13  
August 2015

*Real Life Versus Instagram at the*  
*Armory Week Fairs*  
Greg Allen  
March 6, 2015

*San Juan: The B Side*  
Carla Yates-Acevedo  
*Colección Cisneros* (online)  
Feb 9, 2015

*Beautiful Terrible Ruins:*  
*Detroit and the Anxiety of Decline*  
author references one of my reviews  
published in *Artnet* in 2012  
Dora Apel  
Rutgers University Press  
p. 35

2014

*Ten Things the 2014 Whitney Biennial List*  
*Tells Us*  
Andrew Goldstein  
*Artspace*  
November 16, 2014

*New York Times Calls Michelle Grabner*  
*a Soccer Mom*  
Mary Louise Schumacher  
*Journal Sentinel (JSOnline)*  
October 27, 2014

*How Do People Feel About the Gramsci*  
*Monument, One Year Later?*  
Whitney Kimball  
*Art F City*  
August 20, 2014

# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

Versos [Con]Versos Ed 49: Pedro Vélez  
interview  
Sonia Carmona  
Versos Con Versos radio show  
[soundcloud.com/versos\\_con\\_versos/  
versos-conversos-pedro-velez-2014](https://soundcloud.com/versos_con_versos/versos-conversos-pedro-velez-2014)  
August, 2014

7 Tastemakers to Follow on Instagram  
Bryce Smith  
Artspace  
July 31, 2014

Datebook  
review  
Carolina Miranda  
LA Times  
July 11, 2014

Why Everyone Gets A Piece in  
Today's Art World  
Walter Robinson  
Artspace  
June 14, 2014

A La Redonda en la Obra de Pedro Vélez  
Carlos Otero  
Naufregio de las Palabras  
May 25, 2014

Freedom of Speech: Pedro Vélez  
Abraham Ritchie  
Bad at Sports  
May 14, 2014

Pedro Vélez  
Skype interview  
Alonso Cedillo  
drAk magazine  
[drik.mx/03062014/p2.html](http://drik.mx/03062014/p2.html)  
May, 2014

Whitney Artists in our Backyard  
Lori Waxman  
Chicago Tribune  
April 9, 2014

The Whitney Biennial for Angry Women  
Eunsong Kim, Maya Mackrandilal  
The New Inquiry  
April 4, 2014

Dime Stories: Hooray for Pedro!  
Tony Fitzpatrick  
Newcity  
March 19, 2014

# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

*Grabner's Whitney Biennial is  
a Grand Curriculum*  
Mary Louise Schumacher  
Journal Sentinel  
March 14, 2014

*Pics 'n' Crit: We Saw the 2014 Biennial*  
Corinna Kirsch  
Art F City  
March 5, 2014

*Art Show Anxiety: An Artist's-Eye  
View From Inside the Whitney  
Biennial and Armory Week*  
Walter Robinson  
Artspace  
March 7, 2014

*Critic's Pick:  
Pedro Vélez at Galeria Obra Alegría*  
Cheryl Hartup  
Artforum  
March 2014

*Moral Coercion. Political Corruption.  
Artist Pedro Vélez Takes This Year's  
Whitney by Storm*  
feature  
Naomi Radinsky  
MutualArt  
March, 2014

*Your Guide to the Artists of the  
Whitney Biennial 2014*  
editorial  
Huffington Post  
March, 2014

*In Conversation: First Impressions of the  
2014 Whitney Biennial*  
editorial  
Artslant  
March, 2014

*Whitney Biennial: The View from Chicago*  
Robin Dluzen  
ART LTD.  
March, 2014

*A Study in Midwestern Appropriation*  
Brad Fiore  
MARN Salon critical response  
MARN website  
March, 2014

*#DrunkDicators at Monique Meloche*  
review  
Randall Garrett  
Eutopia  
February, 2014

# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

- 2013
- Girlhood and the Plastic Image*  
(Interfaces: Studies in Visual Culture)  
images and analysis of Annlee Lives! and  
other works  
Heather Warren-Crow  
Dartmouth Pub  
Chapter 3
- Dos boricuas a la Bienal del Whitney*  
Carlos Otero  
El Vocero  
November 26, 2013
- El Museo del Barrio's Outgoing  
Director Sues the Museum for  
Employment Discrimination*  
Ed Morales  
ABC News  
November 16, 2013
- David Robbins, Paul Druecke, Pedro Vélez  
to be in 2014 Whitney Biennial*  
Mary Louis Schumacher  
Art City/JSOnline  
November 15, 2013
- Midwestern Appropriation*  
review  
Claudine Ise  
Chicago Tribune  
November 7, 2013
- Pedro Vélez y Juni Figueroa en la Bienal  
del Whitney*  
Joel Arbasetti  
80Grados  
November, 2013
- Preocupados por la política  
pública cultural*  
Yennifer Alvarés-Jaimes  
El Vocero  
July 30, 2013
- Amid Turmoil at Museo del Barrio,  
Its Director Steps Down*  
Felicia Lee  
New York Times  
February 15, 2013
- 2010
- Getting Paid: Critics Talk Money*  
Ania Szremski  
F News  
November 24, 2010
- Desidia*  
review  
Karla Ostolaza  
The Fractal  
October 31, 2010

# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

*Confessions of a renegade gallerist*  
Madeline Nusser  
Time Out Chicago  
October, 2010

*Por la ruta del sexo*  
review  
Carlos Otero  
El Vocero  
February 12, 2010

**2009** *New Museum Commits Suicide*  
*with Banality*  
commentary on *Dakis Joannou and Yacht*  
*that Conquers* poster  
JamesWagner  
jameswagner.com  
September 25, 2009

*The Day of the Corrupt*  
review  
Artner Alan  
Chicago Tribune  
p. 14  
February 13, 2009

*Pedro Vélez*  
review  
Lauren Weinberg  
Time Out Chicago  
January 25, 2009

*Eye Exam: Critic's Delight*  
Jason Foumberg  
New City  
January 24, 2009

**2008** *Pedro Vélez at Plush Gallery*  
review  
Kevin Bouchard  
Art Lies Quarterly  
summer 2008

*Arte Online*  
Carlos Rubén Rivera  
Primera Hora  
January 17, 2008

**2007** *Sleazebag dealers*  
blog commentary on  
*Crying Lost Art* project  
Ed Winkleman  
July 30, 2007

interview for *Art Criticism in Puerto Rico*  
2 panel  
Rosaly Johanna  
Cultura Viva (TV)  
May, 2007



# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

*Duchamp a la Septima Potencia*  
Jorge Rodriguez  
Vocero  
p. 10-11  
March 15, 2007

*La Crítica de Arte en Puerto Rico: Existe?*  
interview  
Yenifer Alvares-Jaimes  
Piedra, Papel y Tijera (radio show at 89.7)  
Universidad de Puerto Rico  
April, 2007

*The DAMS en Sagrado*  
Santos Isabel  
Primera Hora  
March 15, 2007

*The Dams en el Sagrado*  
interview  
Ozzie Forbes  
Frente Sónico (TV)  
March, 2007

*Young, Edgy Artists Buzz alternative Fairs*  
Sjostrom Jan  
Palm Beach Daily News  
January 29, 2007

*Nuevas Avenidas Visuales*  
Duthie JC  
El Nuevo Día  
January 27, 2007

## 2006

*"manic and wasted" at LMCC*  
James Wagner  
jameswagner.com  
August 18, 2006

*Import Export :*  
Young artist mix it up at CCE  
Michelle Weinberg  
Miami Sun Spot  
April 27, 2006

*uni vas rasf ur falut*  
review  
Moreno Gean  
Art Us

*Godfuck*  
review  
Joel Weinstein  
Rotund World News  
issue #2-3

# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

2005

*PR se luce durante Art Basel Miami Beach*  
Paola Pascual-Ferra  
Primera Hora  
p. 79  
December 2005

*Report from Puerto Rico*  
Walter Robinson  
Artnet  
December 2005

*Visions and Apparitions*  
Carlos Suarez de Jesus  
Miami New Times  
October 2005

*Entre Ferias, Vientos y Post-Rock*  
Elaine Delgado  
El Nuevo Dia  
May 2005

*interview with Pedro Vélez*  
Sandler Carrie  
UR Chicago  
June 2005

*San Juan: Collectors, Collections  
and the Art Market*  
Thalia Vrachopoulos  
NY Arts  
p. 3-4  
March 2005

*Westward Ho*  
Thomas Connors  
Chicago Social  
p. 132-133  
February 2005

2004

*Pedro Vélez's sculptures*  
Pasquini Stefano  
Collezioni Italy  
Fall 2004

*The May Art Crawl*  
Keane A. Pepper  
Free Williamsburg  
May 2004

*Pedro Vélez's drawings (Lamb UC)*  
Hannun Terence  
The Panel House  
March 2004

# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

published photos of models posing in front  
of Vélez's drawings and posters  
cover and editorial  
ZUBEA Magazine  
February 2004

2003

*Pedro Vélez:  
New Generation of Conceptual Art*  
Dyanis de Jesus  
Noctambulo  
October 2003

*Artist of the Month: Pedro Vélez*  
interview  
Gean Moreno  
Arte Al Dia  
March-April 2003

*Enfant Terrible Collective Makes Art  
out of our Scandalous Past*  
Damarys Ocaña  
Miami Herald  
January 2003

*Altares con algo que decir*  
Jorge Rodriguez  
El Vocero  
January 2003

quote from Artnet article about artist  
Jay Heikes for article *Sculpture Now* in  
Flash Art  
January 2003

images of Ann Lee Lives!  
and fake announcements  
The Breeder Projects  
Issue 8  
Law Office

National Salon catalog  
image on front cover/sleeve

2002

*Frente al Ritual Creador*  
Mario Alegre  
El Nuevo Dia  
p. 76  
November 2002

refrigerator show  
editorial: published image  
Art New England  
review section  
September 2002

# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

*No Name's group show saved by  
two solo exhibitions*  
Doug Hanson  
Star Tribune  
August 30, 2002

*Chicago Diary*  
Walter Robinson  
Artnet  
May 2002

*The Land of Signs*  
Randi Hopkins  
Boston Phoenix  
May 2002

*Sky Above the Clouds*  
Mike Wolf  
NCA  
March 2002

*Pedro Vélez at Bronx River Art Center*  
Scott Speh  
Hot Commodities  
#15

2001 *Emerging Artists Look for Alternatives*  
Lisa Stein  
Chicago Tribune  
p. 9  
May 13, 2001

*More Comfortable and Better*  
Julia Marsh  
New Art Examiner  
p. 85  
May 2001

*Made in Chicago:  
The Top personalities of the year*  
editorial  
New City  
p. 6-7  
May 2001

*The Library Project*  
curatorial essay  
Marc Fischer

2000 *Pedro Vélez and Jessica  
Hutchins at Hermetic*  
Michelle Grabner  
Frieze  
p. 118  
November-December 2000

*San Juan tomada por arte contemporaneo*  
Manuel Lezama  
El Nuevo Día  
p. 82-83  
October 2000

# curriculum vitae

PEDRO VÉLEZ

No Metaphors  
Charles Mutscheller  
New Art Examiner  
p. 50  
April 2000

Effervescent Endings  
Manuel Lezama  
The San Juan Star  
December 1996

*U/ topistas- PR '00*  
catalog  
Michy Marxuach Projects

1999

*Smart Living*  
Michael Bulka  
Midnight Rants  
May 1999

1998

*Travel and Identities of Displacement*  
curatorial essay  
John Di Stefano  
p.16

1997

*Pinturas a Punto de Estallar*  
Janira Figueroa  
Caras  
April 1997

1996

*Una Joven Promesa*  
Enrique Garcia-Gutierrez  
El Nuevo Día  
December 1996





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