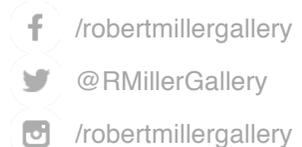


ROBERT MILLER GALLERY

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LEGADO

22 OCTOBER 2015

Thursday, October 22, 6:30–7:30 p.m. (duration: one hour)
Robert Miller Gallery, 524 West 26th Street

New York, NY – October 17, 2015. Robert Miller Gallery is pleased to present a new performance work by Carlos Martiel in conjunction with *Nuevos Colores*, a group exhibition of new art from Cuba.

In *Legado* (legacy), Martiel buries himself between two clay pots filled with coffee grounds from Jamaica and Haiti respectively, countries from which his grandparents immigrated to Cuba in the mid-1920s. As an extension of this personal history, the work ruminates on the flow of economic migrants created by colonialism and its legacy of human and environmental exploitation by Western powers in the Caribbean. The resulting conditions have irrevocably marked the identity of groups inhabiting these countries and their economies.

Martiel's performance will draw out this autobiographical experience to discuss the Caribbean diaspora as a social phenomenon, which is in part produced by exploitation of the land's wealth. Along with the introduction of goods such as coffee, cotton, and sugar cane in the Caribbean came new forms of social relations, particularly slavery. The coffee that will fill the two clay pots in which Martiel will bury himself have been imported to the U.S. from Jamaica and Haiti to represent and investigate this phenomenon and the artist's own Cuban identity.

Carlos Martiel (born 1989, Havana, Cuba) is an artist specializing in performance. His works focus on specific political events and social injustices that occur inside and outside his country. Martiel's performances reflect the relations of power between the individual and the different contexts in which he operates. He graduated from the National Academy of Fine Arts "San Alejandro," Havana in 2009. Between the years of 2008-2010, he studied in the Catedra de Arte Conducta, directed by the artist Tania Bruguera. Martiel's works have been included in: Havana Biennial (2009), Pontevedra Biennial (2010), Liverpool Biennial (2010), Biennial "La Otra", Bogota (2013), International Performance Art Biennale, Houston (2014); Thessaloniki Biennale, Greece (2015). He has received several awards, including "CIFOS Grants & Commissions Program Award" in Miami, United States, 2014; "Arte Laguna" in Venice, Italy, 2013; "Close Up Award" in Vallarta, Mexico, 2012.

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