

The Ringling

THE JOHN & MABLE RINGLING
MUSEUM OF ART

STATE ART MUSEUM OF FLORIDA | FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Recent works on Cuba by Coco Fusco in exclusive exhibition at The Ringling

SARASOTA, Fla. – A selection of recent video projects by internationally acclaimed interdisciplinary artist and writer Coco Fusco will be on view this fall at the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art. Organized by The Ringling, *Coco Fusco: Twilight* will feature several signature video works, including the world premiere of two new works – one video and one outdoor sculpture – that explore the current political and social climate in Cuba as it transitions to a post-Castro era.

Coco Fusco: Twilight will be on view in The Ringling’s Monda Gallery for Contemporary Art from Oct. 14, 2018, through Feb. 17, 2019. The exhibition is curated by Christopher Jones, associate curator of photography and new media at The Ringling. The exhibition is in partnership with The Hermitage Artist Retreat.

“As one of the most articulate and engaged creative practitioners of our time, Coco Fusco interprets the state of the world in particularly relevant and provocative ways,” said Steven High, executive director of the Ringling. “We look forward to sharing her compelling, insightful work with our diverse audiences as part of The Ringling’s ongoing commitment to supporting and presenting contemporary artists.”

Like all of the artist’s projects, the videos and sculpture in *Coco Fusco: Twilight* operate at and examine the intersection of politics and culture. Three videos – *La botella al mar de María Elena/The Message in a Bottle from María Elena* (2015), *La confesión/The Confession* (2015) and *La Plaza Vacía/The Empty Plaza* (2012) – will be shown together in high-definition single-channel video, alongside an installation of *Y entonces el mar te habla/And the Sea Will Talk to You* (2012). The time-based work making its debut in the exhibition is a video essay created in response to the realities faced by artists and writers working in Cuba today.

In addition to the video works featured in *Twilight*, The Ringling will unveil a new interactive sculpture by Fusco on the grounds adjacent to the Art Museum, entitled *Tin Man Trump* – a monumental statue of President Donald Trump as the Tin Man from *The Wizard of Oz*. With reference to the Tin Man of popular culture, Fusco infers that President Trump’s statements on race, gender and immigration policy reflect a lack of heart. Exhibiting *Tin Man Trump* in concert with Fusco’s work on Cuba as part of *Twilight* is a powerful reminder of the importance of dissent and freedom of expression in an open, democratic society.

“The title of the Ringling’s exhibition reflects the twilight of the Cuban revolution and the anxieties of an uncertain future,” said Jones. “Fusco’s deeply informed research and critical discourse on contemporary Cuban culture is essential to understanding the country’s challenges and geopolitical position in 2018.”

Fusco is a prolific and wide-ranging multimedia artist, writer and critic, whose projects have been exhibited and performed at leading biennials, festivals and museums worldwide. She is the recipient of numerous international awards and fellowships, including a 2013 Guggenheim Fellowship and a Herb Alpert Award in the Arts. In 2016, Fusco won the Hermitage Artist Retreat’s Greenfield Prize. She received a bachelor’s degree in semiotics from Brown University, an M.A. in modern thought and literature from Stanford University and a Ph.D. in art and visual culture from Middlesex University in the U.K.

Fusco is the author of *Dangerous Moves: Performance and Politics in Cuba* (2015), *A Field Guide for Female Interrogators* (2008) and *English is Broken Here: Notes on Cultural Fusion in the Americas* (1995), among other volumes.

In 2016 Fusco was named the Andrew Banks Family Endowed Chair and Professor of Art at the University of Florida. She is based in Gainesville, Florida, and New York, New York.

Several programs and performances organized in conjunction with the exhibition will be announced in the coming months.

###

About The Ringling

The Ringling is a preeminent center for the arts, history and learning that is dedicated to bringing the past and contemporary culture to life through extraordinary visitor experiences. From its inception, The Ringling has joined the diverse visual traditions and theatrical spectacle of yesterday with the genre-defying global practitioners of today.

A place of exploration, discovery and respite, The Ringling’s campus in Sarasota, Florida – which includes the Museum of Art, Circus Museum, a historic home, an 18th-century theater and bayfront gardens – is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

As the State Art Museum of Florida and part of Florida State University, The Ringling fulfills an important educational mission. The Ringling offers formal and informal programs of study serving as a major resource for students, scholars and lifelong learners of every age across the region, country and around the world.

Media Contacts:

The Ringling

Isabel Lower

941-359-5700 x2808

isabel.lower@ringling.org

Blue Water Communications

Sara Stacy, MPA

800-975-3212

sara@bluewatercommunications.biz