

# Pan American Art Projects

José Toirac: Waiting for the Right Time  
Curated by Marily Zeitlin and Alejandro Machado  
November 2019 - January 2020  
[www.panamericanart.com](http://www.panamericanart.com)

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## 2007

### Cuba 1869 - 2006

Censored by: Ministry of Culture of Cuba

Reason: "You cannot exhibit the good and bad together in the same room".

Portrait gallery of Cuban leaders from Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, first President of the Republic in Arms to Raúl Castro, President of Cuba at the time the work was done (2006)

As Plan B, the artist proposed the work VANITAS, a gallery of portraits of the First Ladies of Cuba, which was dismissed without giving any argument. This work was shown at Pan American Art Projects in 2013.

As plan C, the author proposed a series of works based on images by the American photographer Walker Evans, taken in Havana in 1933, in one of the most repressive political moments in the history of Cuba. The idea was to show an allegory of the present. The exhibition was titled ORBIS, Tribute to Walker Evans.

### VANITAS, 2013

This piece is composed of 23 paintings of former First Ladies of Cuba. Following tradition, wives of the presidents during the Republic period (1902-1959) and up to 1076, would get their pictures published in society magazines as they devoted their time and efforts to charities and social projects. The piece is a compilation of images of these ladies, who shared the fame and limelight with their husbands. By having them all together, each one with a metal plate commemorating their years of service (one of them for less than 24 hours), the artist comments on how everything passes, sometimes faster than we realize. These women were at some point in their lives at the top of society, but today nobody remembers them.

The artist also completed another work, "Cuba 1869-2006" consisting of the portraits of all Cuban presidents.

### References

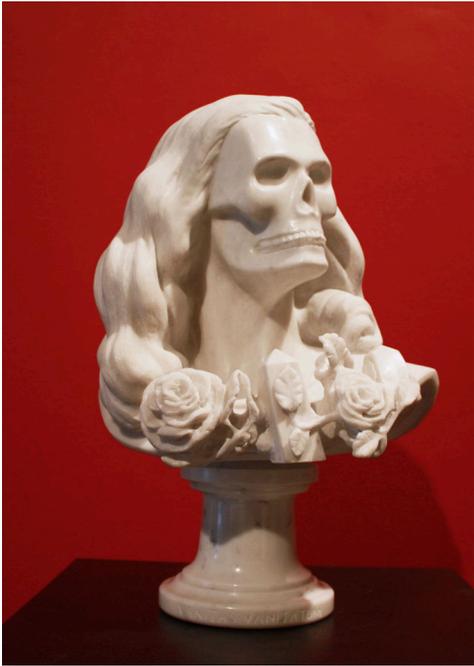


23 paintings of former First Ladies of Cuba.

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