

Vaivén: 21st-Century Art of Puerto Rico and Its Diaspora



What

A multidisciplinary exhibition and series of public programs, *Vaivén: 21st-Century Art of Puerto Rico and Its Diaspora*, explores Puerto Rican artistic production over the last twenty-five years through the work of forty-three artists working from Puerto Rico and its diaspora based in the United States.

When

September 9 – December 6, 2025

Where

Katherine E. Nash Gallery
405 21st Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455



Planning Your Visit

Gallery hours are Tuesday – Saturday, 11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Free and open to the public

Housed in the Regis Center for Art at the University of Minnesota, the Katherine E. Nash Gallery is accessible by U-Card only. Call 612-624-7530 upon arrival to gain access to the gallery through the building's main entrance located on 21st Avenue South.

Parking is available nearby on the street, at the 21st Avenue South ramp, 5th Street South lot, and 19th Avenue South ramp. Hourly or event rates may apply.

Public Program and Reception

Saturday, September 13, 6:00-9:00 pm

With performances by [BORIKEN Cultural Center](#)

Public Program, 6:00-7:00 pm, InFlux Space E110, Regis Center for Art

Public Reception, 7:00-9:00 pm, Katherine E. Nash Gallery, Regis Center for Art

Join us for a program with the curators and guest artists followed by the reception. Seating for the program is first-come, first-served. Auditorium doors open at 5:30 pm. Co-sponsored by the Departments of Art, Art History, and Chicano and Latino Studies with generous support from the University of Minnesota Imagine Fund.



Exhibition Description

(Minneapolis, MN) — The Katherine E. Nash Gallery at the University of Minnesota, in association with Hidrante, San Juan, is proud to present *Vaivén: 21st-Century Art of Puerto Rico and Its Diaspora*, a multidisciplinary exhibition spanning twenty-five years of Puerto Rican artistic production from forty-three artists working in Puerto Rico and its U.S. diaspora. Derived from Spanish for “back-and-forth movement,” *vaivén* is most associated with the supposed ease at which Puerto Ricans migrate between the United States and Puerto Rico. Beyond the comings and goings of travel, this word names decades of physical and cultural ebb and flow that have resulted in more persons of Puerto Rican descent living across the fifty United States than in Puerto Rico itself. In turn, to be Puerto Rican is to be inextricably linked to diaspora, Black and Caribbean epistemologies, and a constant reimagining of home and belonging.

By tracing conceptual and aesthetic intersections across a range of approaches to image- and mark-making, sculpture and installation, and sound and video, artists explore the hybridity of memory, language, and place as they relate to acts of witnessing, resistance, and connection. Works in the exhibition bear witness to a quarter century of cultural, political, and migratory oscillations, while challenging dominant cultural narratives of “island” post-disaster resiliency versus “mainland” diasporic neither-here-nor-there identity. Rather than following a linear trajectory, the exhibition documents Puerto Rican artistic production across time and place to challenge the geographic and cultural authenticity, racialization, and classism that have shaped which voices define Puerto Rican contemporary art, and which continue to be devalued.



Artists in the exhibition include Candida Alvarez, Genesis Báez, Sula Bermudez-Silverman, Ricardo Cabret, Melissa Calderón, Rodríguez Calero, Nayda Collazo-Llorens, Gisela Colón, Cristina Córdova, David Antonio Cruz, Maritza Dávila-Irizarry, Larissa De Jesús Negrón, Ada del Pilar Ortiz, Estrella Esquilín, Mónica Félix, Cándida González, GeoVanna Gonzalez, Ivelisse Jiménez, Juanita Lanzo, Natalia Lassalle-Morillo, Olivia Levins Holden, Ricardo Levins Morales, Nora Maité Nieves, Héctor Méndez Caratini, Colectivo Moriviví, Javier Orfón, Josué Pellot, Joey Quiñones, Wanda Raimundi-Ortiz, Elizabeth Robles, Amber Robles-Gordon, Jezabeth Roca González, Shellyne Rodriguez, Luis Rodríguez Rosario, Raúl Romero, G. Rosa-Rey, Juan Sánchez, Beatriz Santiago Muñoz, Amarise Deán Santo, Edra Soto, Bibiana Suárez, Nitza Tufiño, and William Villalongo.

Vaivén: 21st-Century Art of Puerto Rico and Its Diaspora is made possible by generous support from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation, the Jacques and Natasha Gelman Foundation, the Harlan Boss Foundation for the Arts, and the University of Minnesota Imagine Fund. The exhibition is curated by Teréz Iacovino, director of the Katherine E. Nash Gallery, and José López Serra, director of Hidrante, San Juan.



Related Events

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Becoming SotaRicans

4:00-6:00 pm, Liberal Arts Engagement Hub, 120 Pillsbury Hall
310 Pillsbury Dr. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455

Moderated by Tabatha Cruz, this panel highlights Puerto Rican community leaders, Ricardo Levins Morales, Luis Ortega, and Elsa Vega-Peréz, and their contributions to Minnesota's arts and culture sector. Co-sponsored by the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota.

Friday, October 24, 2025

Algarabía: A Conversation with Roque Raquel Salas Rivera

6:00-7:00 pm, InFlux Space E110, Regis Center for Art
405 21st Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455

Carmen Giménez and Roque Raquel Salas Rivera discuss his collection of poems, [*Algarabía: The Song of Cenex, Natural Son of the Isle Alarabíyya*](#) (Graywolf 2025), that follows the journey of Cenex, a trans being who retrospectively narrates his life while navigating the stories told on his behalf. Co-sponsored by the Department of English at the University of Minnesota and Graywolf Press.



Saturday, November 15, 2025

BOMBA: A Film by Jasmira Colón

2:00-3:30 pm, InFlux Space E110, Regis Center for Art
405 21st Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455

This documentary explores how Boricuas use Bomba—an African-Puerto Rican and Indigenous dance and folkloric art—as a tool for social resistance, liberation, and unity across Puerto Rico and its diaspora. Come learn how Bomba—one of Puerto Rico’s oldest musical genres derived from enslaved West African Ancestors—continues to make a profound impact on the world and serves as a powerful reminder to remember who you are and never forget your history. A conversation with director Jasmira Colón and featured dancers follows the screening. Co-sponsored by BORIKEN Cultural Center and St. Paul Neighborhood Network (SPNN).

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

Place-Keepers: Boricua Community Led Muralism

5:00-6:15 pm CDT, Online event

Registration required: z.umn.edu/placekeepers

Moderated by Jessica Lopez Lyman, this online event features muralists Olivia Levins Holden and Colectivo Moriviví, and highlights how activism—a combination of art and activism, solidarity movements, and mural traditions rooted in Chicana feminism—is essential to how they work in community. Co-sponsored by the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College (CENTRO).



Related Exhibition

September 9 - October 4, 2025

Walking Bridges: New Acquisitions from the Francis V. Gorman Collection

Quarter Gallery, Regis Center for Art

Curated by Teréz Iacovino, this exhibition features new acquisitions from the University Libraries Francis V. Gorman Rare Art Books, Media, and Artist Archives Collection by Latinx and Caribbean artists, poets, and writers. Co-sponsored the University Libraries Francis V. Gorman Rare Art Books, Media, and Artist Archives Collection.

Related Commission

A mural commission between Minnesota-based artist [Olivia Levins Holden](#) and Puerto Rico-based artist collective [Colectivo Morivivi](#) will be publicly installed in Minnesota and Río Piedras, Puerto Rico in the Summer of 2026. These sister murals are painted on Polytab—a durable, easily portable material that lends itself to mural making across geographies, as the artists work with their local Puerto Rican communities to guide their final designs.

Representative mural design materials will be on view as part of *Vaivén: 21st-Century Art of Puerto Rico and Its Diaspora*.



Exhibition Catalogue

Vaivén: 21st-Century Art of Puerto Rico and Its Diaspora represents the first bilingual English and Spanish catalogue published by the Katherine E. Nash Gallery and is distributed by University of Minnesota Press. This fully illustrated volume features contributions from Arlene Dávila, Yomaira C. Figueroa-Vásquez, Teréz Iacovino, José López Serra, María Elena Ortiz, Carlos Ortiz Burgos, and Monica Uszerowicz. Available for purchase through University of Minnesota Press: upress.umn.edu.

Sponsorship

Vaivén: 21st-Century Art of Puerto Rico and Its Diaspora is made possible by the generous support of The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation, the Jacques and Natasha Gelman Foundation, the Harlan Boss Foundation for the Arts, and the University of Minnesota Imagine Fund. Curatorial research and travel for the exhibition were funded by a Curatorial Research Fellowship from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

Related programming for *Vaivén: 21st-Century Art of Puerto Rico and Its Diaspora* is made possible by co-sponsorship from BORIKEN Cultural Center, the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College (CENTRO), Graywolf Press, St. Paul Neighborhood Network (SPNN), and the University of Minnesota including the Departments of Art, Art History, Chicano and Latino Studies, and English; the Immigration History Research Center; the Office for Public Engagement; and the University Libraries Francis V. Gorman Rare Art Books, Media, and Artist Archives Collection.



About the Katherine E. Nash Gallery

The Katherine E. Nash Gallery is a research laboratory for the practice and interpretation of the visual arts. We believe the visual arts have the capacity to interpret, critique, and expand on all of human experience. Our internationally recognized exhibitions program fosters a center of discourse on the visual arts and its relationship to culture and community—a place where we examine our assumptions about the past and suggest possibilities for the future. Learn more at nash.umn.edu.

About Hidrante

Established in 2015, Hidrante is a gallery, residency, and cultural production project based in Puerto Rico. Hidrante collaborates closely with artists to produce site- and context-specific projects, often working with underrepresented and emerging practices that do not find a home in other white cube spaces in Puerto Rico. Spanning three sites, Hidrante's programmatic focus includes solo and group exhibitions at its San Juan gallery spaces and invitational residencies at its San Germán project space. Learn more at hidrantee.com.

Land Acknowledgment

The University of Minnesota is built on Miní Sóta Makhóche, the traditional, ancestral, and contemporary lands of the Dakhóta Oyáte.

Press Contact

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Katherine E. Nash Gallery
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



HIDRANTE

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**Immigration History
Research Center**
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



Image Captions (In order of appearance)

Genesis Báez, *Condensation (San Juan Airport)*, 2019. Archival pigment print, 32 × 40 in. (81.2 × 101.6 cm). Courtesy the artist. ©Genesis Báez

Jezabeth Roca González, still from *Isla Flotante (Floating Island)*. Single-channel HD video: color, sound, 04:50 minutes. Courtesy the artist. ©Jezabeth Roca González

Nayda Collazo-Llorens, *GeoDis/connect 5* (detail), 2020. Wall installation with printed maps and color paper. 360 framed images, each 4 × 6 in. (10.2 × 15.2 cm), 60 × 180 in. (152.4 × 457.2 cm) (approx.) overall. Courtesy the artist. ©Nayda Collazo-Llorens

Sula Bermudez-Silverman, *Beneath, Below, Behind*, 2024. Salt, epoxy resin, and wood. 6 ¼ × 5 ½ × 1 ¼ in. (15.9 × 14 × 3.2 cm). Photo: Paul Salvesson. Courtesy the Collection of Marguerite Steed Hoffman. ©Sula Bermudez-Silverman

Javier Orfón, *Tratado de muchas cuevas* (Treatise of many caves) (installation view), 2018-19. Antillean pottery, found objects, artist made table, Dimensions variable, table: 16 × 79½ × 31 in. (40.6 × 201.9 × 78.7 cm). Photo: José López Serra. Courtesy the artist and Hidrante, San Juan. ©Javier Orfón

David Antonio Cruz, *andtheywillwaittoseethefireandseasintheireyes.greenwind,greenbranches,theshipuponthesea andthehorseonthemountain* (installation view), from *chosenfamily* (2021-present), 2023. Oil, Flashe, ink, and wax pencil on wood panels with aluminum backing, each 72 × 60 × 2 in. (182.9 × 152.4 × 5.1 cm); 72 × 123½ × 2 in. (182.9 × 313.7 × 5.1 cm) overall. Courtesy the artist and Monique Meloche Gallery, Chicago. ©David Antonio Cruz

Juan Sánchez, *Para Ángel de Vieques* (For Ángel of Vieques), 2006. Oil and mixed media collage on wood panel, 72 × 74 in. (182.8 × 187.9 cm). Courtesy Guariken Arts Inc. and Hutchinson Modern & Contemporary, New York. ©Juan Sánchez

Directed by Natalia Lassalle-Morillo in collaboration with Erica Ballester, Nina Lucía Rodríguez, Raquel Rodríguez, Emma Suárez-Báez, chorus in collaboration with Xenia Rubinos, *En Parábola/Conversations on Tragedy (Part I)* (installation view), 2024. Three-channel 4k video, digitized 16 mm and 8 mm film: color, sound, 60 minutes. Photo: José López Serra. Courtesy the artist. ©Natalia Lassalle-Morillo

Ricardo Cabret, still from *Origen* (Origin), 2018. Single-channel HD video: color, sound, 2:14 minutes. Courtesy the artist. ©Ricardo Cabret

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