

Windows @ Walgreens

GeoVanna Gonzalez

*Transformation and Futility: a queer
deconstruction of space*

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6700 Collins Ave, Miami Beach



Oolite Arts



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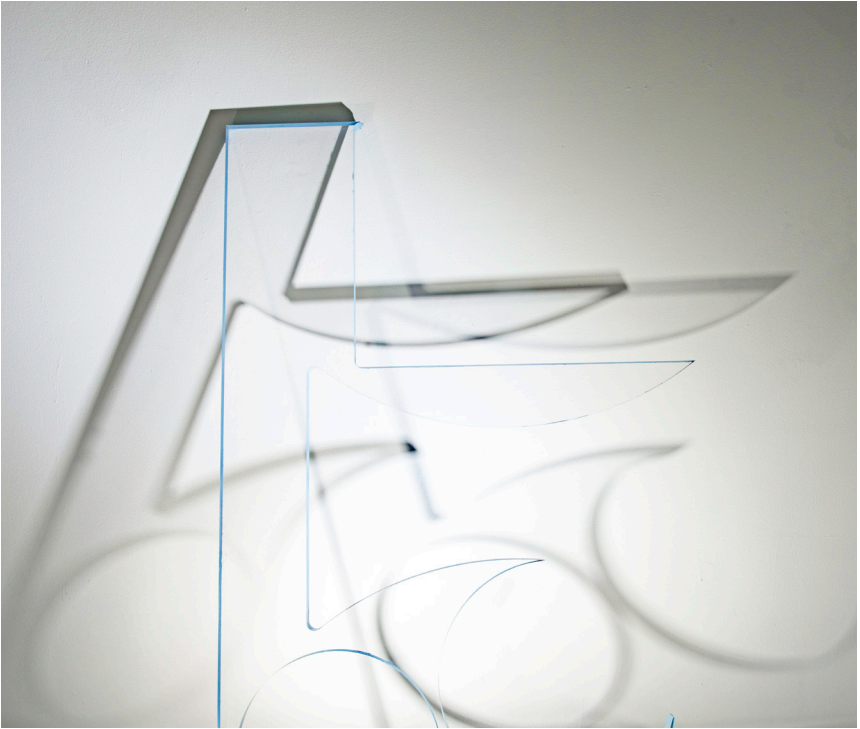


Left image: Walgreens 67th street and Collins Avenue, Above: Walgreens 67th Street

GeoVanna Gonzalez creates multimedia installations that successfully incorporate sculpture, drawing, and nontraditional materials to orchestrate visual compositions that poetically activate physical space. These works often function as a stage or arena—as layered, conceptual explorations into contemporary notions of gender—where audiences are encouraged to interact, reflect upon, and challenge a given sociopolitical context. Gonzalez is like a magician that gives life to the most obscure senses of the self. And, in a master stroke, she slyly appropriates modernist abstraction and architectural motifs to reference, among other things, her Caribbean heritage.



Gonzalez lays out and presents a platform for the public to come together and interact within a delineated sculptural space. She envisions a society in which art is available to everyone regardless of their social or economic backgrounds. Her community-based work and interest in education places her at the forefront of activism to question social stereotypes. Gonzalez embraces and honors the most vulnerable in society, appropriating familiar visual codes that echo and relate to their layered history. Her commitment to inclusiveness fosters a conversation where no boundaries exist between the public and private realm. Gonzalez intentionally engages broad and diverse audiences to question the artist's role in society. Her passion for art as social practice thus becomes a tool and driving force behind her work. With her precise observations of the everyday, she coaxes complex systems of symbols to unfurl, unravel, and transform.



“My work desires to connect private and public space through interventionist, participatory art with an emphasis on collaboration and collectivity. I build installations that are designed for non-directive play in order to express the potential of our embodied cognition. I reference architecture and design by reflecting on how the voids in the space we inhabit affect our everyday,” comments the artist about her practice.

Ultimately, Gonzalez acts as a shaman, mediating between the spiritual and the mundane. Her participatory installations strive to conjure a new individual, one who is free of evil. Her mission is clear: to bring people together in close proximity, to facilitate a moment of reflection, and to question and dismantle traditional notions of identity politics.

– Omar Lopez-Chahoud, Curator

About the Artist

GeoVanna Gonzalez was born and raised in Los Angeles, California, where she received a BFA from Otis College of Art and Design. Her recent solo exhibitions include *When we open every window*, Gr_und, Berlin; *Play, Lay, Aye*, The Bass Museum of Art, Miami; and *PLAY, LAY, AYE: ACT III*, Commuter Biennial, Miami (all 2019). Recent commissions and awards include *Exotic Naps*, a video commissioned by the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami (2020); a WaveMaker Grant from Locust Projects, Miami, and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts (2020); and Oolite Arts' Ellie Award for Visual Arts (2018). She is founder and curator of Supplement Projects, an alternative art and community space in Miami, cofounder of the performative reading club Read What You Want!, and a member of the queer/feminist arts collective COVEN Berlin, producing exhibitions and events that focus on body politics, gender, labor, sexuality, and art.

About the Curator

Omar López-Chahoud has been Artistic Director and Curator of UNTITLED, ART since its founding in 2012. As an independent curator, López-Chahoud has curated and co-curated numerous exhibitions in the United States and internationally. He organized the Nicaraguan Biennial in March 2014 and has participated in panel discussions at Artists Space, Art in General, MoMA PS1, and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City. He is currently a member of the Bronx Museum Acquisitions Committee. López-Chahoud earned MFAs from Yale University School of Art and the Royal Academy of Art in London.

Oolite Arts strives to support its alumni community of artists through site-specific projects sponsored by Walgreens. In partnership since 2000, Oolite Arts and Walgreens present innovative exhibitions to bring contemporary art to the Miami Beach community.

For full details about the exhibitions and the artists behind them, visit **OoliteArts.org**

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