Collective Circle Art Away 2027

Oolite Arts

Mérida

January 26–31, 2027





Join Oolite Arts for Art Away: Mérida, January 26–31, 2027. We will spend six days in the cultural heart of the Yucatán, timed to the second WAY Art Week and the inaugural Yucatán Bienal — conceived by art historian, collector, and cultural patron Catherine Petitgas and led by artistic director Abraham Cruzvillegas, one of Mexico's most celebrated contemporary artists, across fifteen venues throughout the region. At this vibrant moment, contemporary art unfolds all over the city — in artists' studios, private homes, historic architecture, and unexpected public spaces — and our week is built to move through it at close range: intimate studio visits, access to renowned private collections, and landmark site-specific works, including James Turrell's *Agua de Luz*. Our home base is Hotel Sevilla, a new Grupo Habita property inside a restored sixteenth-century Spanish Colonial building just steps from Mérida's central plaza — henequén textiles, handcrafted wood furniture, and exposed beam ceilings set around a quiet garden and pool, as considered and characterful a setting as the city around it.





Art by Marcos Castillo

Header image: Artist Ernesto Sanchez's studio
Cover: Catedral de San Ildefonso, Mérida

Tuesday, January 26

Upon arrival guests will be shuttled from the airport to the Hotel Sevilla. In the early evening, we will have a cocktail reception at the studio of **Zhivago Duncan**, the Mexico City–based artist whose sprawling paintings, sculpture, and mechanical installations turn a critical, often nostalgic eye on celebrity and consumer culture. From there, we'll head for a fabulous welcome dinner at **El Minaret**, a restored 1908 neoclassical mansion on Paseo de Montejo. *R, D*



Artist Zhivagho Duncan's studio



Randy Shull & Hedy Fischer

Wednesday, January 27

After breakfast at the hotel, we will set out for our first full day of exploring, spending the first part of the day visiting the inaugural **Yucatán Bienal**. We will also visit the studio of **Randy Shull**, an American artist who has kept a studio in Mérida for more than a decade, drawn by what he describes as the city's color, heat, and vernacular rhythm — qualities that surface in the layered, archaeological paint surfaces and furniture-sculptures. We will also visit the beautiful home Randy shares with his wife, **Hedy Fischer** for a private collection tour — together they have amassed one of the most dynamic private collections of contemporary art in North America with the intention of creating an evolving and focused picture of art in the 21st century. We will close the day at the **VIP opening of WAY (Week of Art Yucatán)**, the citywide initiative connecting Mérida's galleries, artist-run spaces, and collectors that runs alongside the Bienal's early programming. The evening is free for dinner on your own. *B, L*

Thursday, January 28

After breakfast, the day will begin at Estudio Mérida in Chuburná de Hidalgo for a joint studio visit with **Claribel Calderius** and **Marcos Castillo**, the Cuban-born artist couple, who relocated to Mérida in 2020. We will spend more time exploring the **Bienal** ahead of a visit to the workshop and home of **Jorge Pardo**. The Cuban-born, California-raised artist and designer settled permanently in Mérida after redesigning the Hacienda Tecoh, and whose home, layered with stenciled tile patterns, mirrored geometry, and a reimagined *Las Meninas*, doubles as a gathering place for visiting chefs and artists. Employing a broad palette of vibrant colors, eclectic patterns, and natural and industrial materials, Pardo's artwork explores the intersection of contemporary painting, design, sculpture, and architecture, ranging from murals and home furnishings to collages and larger-than-life fabrications. We will close the day at **Huniik**, chef **Roberto Solís**'s intimate Michelin-starred restaurant — around sixteen seats, built around an open kitchen and grounded in Yucatecan tradition — whose cenote-inspired interior was designed by Pardo himself. More conceptual and experiential than simply luxurious. *B, L, D*



Home of artist Jorge Pardo

Friday, January 29

Following breakfast at the hotel, we will visit the studio and home of **Monica Rezman**, the Chicago-born artist who relocated to Mérida in 2018 and, working with architect **Carlos Patrón**, built a light-filled compound in the San Cristóbal neighborhood — a renovated colonial structure housing her studio alongside new living quarters, with plants rising directly from the floor of the main room. From there, we will spend more time exploring the **Bienal**. After lunch, we will visit the studio of **Ernesto García Sánchez**, the Cuban-born, Mérida-based painter who founded *Taller 62*, his hybrid studio, exhibition space, and café — his abstract acrylic and mixed-media work, from the *Polymorphs* to *Linearity* series, sits in collections including Museo Jumex. We will head back to the hotel to freshen up before the **Yucatán Bienal Gala & Dinner**, the marquee celebratory evening tied to the Bienal's launch. *B, L, D*



Agua de Luz by James Turrell



Ernesto García Sánchez

Saturday, January 30

The full day is set aside for *Agua de Luz*, the monumental site-specific work of **James Turrell** secluded in the heart of Yucatán. It was conceived as a cosmological piece to connect the realms of heaven with the sacred waters of the underworld, or, in the words of Turrell, "a portal to spiritual dimensions." This is an exceptional site-art where his most intimate and elevated vision makes you experience the physical presence of light. Over the course of the afternoon we will move through the space, enjoy a beautiful lunch, and take in the surrounding jungle canopy together. We will close the day and the trip with a casual dinner at the hotel. *B, L, D*

Sunday, January 31

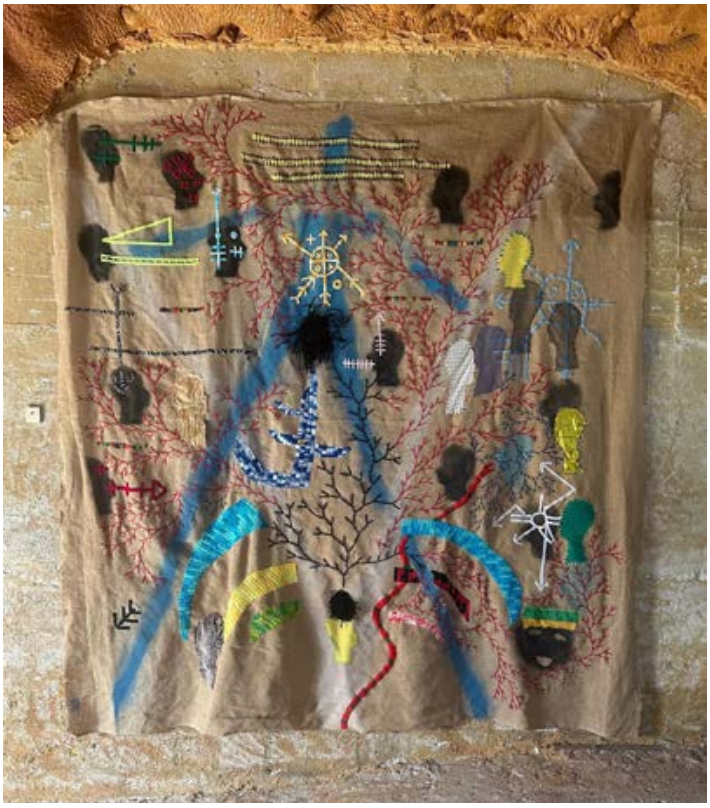
After a final, unhurried breakfast at the hotel, we will say our goodbyes before heading to the airport. *B*



Huniik restaurant by Chef Roberto Solís



WAY VIP opening



Art by Claribel Calderius



Art by Monica Rezman



Art collector Catherine Petitgas at the Yucatán Biennal Gala

Pricing per person*

Charming room double occupancy: **$5,070**
Charming room single occupancy: **$5,910**

Pool view room double occupancy: **$5,160**
Pool view single occupancy: **$6,090**

Historic patio room double occupancy: **$5,220**
Historic patio room single occupancy: **$6,210**

***All pricing includes a $1,000 tax-deductible donation to Oolite Arts.** Your donation will support Oolite Arts' Youth Education Programming.

Includes:

- Five nights at Hotel Sevilla
- Airport transfers
- Coach transportation
- Five breakfasts
- Three lunches
- Three dinners (including a Michelin Star dining experience)
- Bienal Gala & Dinner
- Private tour of James Turrell's *Agua de Luz*
- Private collection tours
- Artists' studio visits
- WAY Art Week VIP opening
- All guides and admissions

This trip is limited to 15 participants. A non-refundable deposit of $1,000 is due at registration; final payments are due on December 1, 2026.

Scan the QR code to reserve your spot now.
For more information, contact Megan Braasch, Chief Development Officer, at mbraasch@oolitearts.org or +1 917.572.0045.







Hotel Sevilla. Photos courtesy of designhotels.com/hotels/mexico/merida/hotel-sevilla/