

Re:print
View
Present

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María Magdalena Campos-Pons

Artist Bio

Born in 1959 in the Matanzas province of Cuba, María Magdalena Campos-Pons bears a familial history that is deeply intermingled with the sugar industry's presence in her hometown of La Vega. Her roots can be traced from America, across the sea to her Cuban homeland, to Africa. Her work is an open-ended and continually evolving investigation of history and memory, and their roles in the formation of identity.

In 2007, the first full-scale survey of the artist's work opened at the Indianapolis Museum of Art. The exhibition, entitled *María Magdalena Campos-Pons: Everything Is Separated by Water*, presented 34 paintings, sculptures, new media installations and large-format Polaroid photographs. All works were created after Campos-Pons left Cuba for North America in 1990. Campos-Pons' work has been exhibited in Japan, Norway, France, Italy and Cuba, but she is most widely known through her participation in several major group exhibitions including: *Unpacking Europe* at the



Museum Boijmans van Beunigen in Rotterdam (2002) and *Authentic/Ex-centric: Africa in and Out of Africa*, part of the 49th Venice Biennale (2001). Campos-Pons has been the subject of numerous reviews and had been mentioned in dozens of artist publications. Campos-Pons' work is also included in several public collections, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, The Art Institute of Chicago, the Ludwig Forum for International Art in Germany, the Center for the Development of Visual Arts in Havana, Cuba, and The Victoria and Albert Museum London UK.

Corner/Opera. Rethinking a Site

Inspired by Paul Robeson

Currently, Campos-Pons is working on an installation for the Paul Robeson House in West Philadelphia and Temple Gallery in Old City Philadelphia as part of the *Re:Print Re:Present Re:View* project.

The Paul Robeson House is located in the heart of West Philadelphia as a memorial and interpretive center where the public can experience the extraordinary legacy of Paul Robeson: actor, lawyer, singer, orator, athlete and human rights activist. Campos-Pons' installation integrates the history of Paul Robeson with interviews of young neighbors of the house. Campos-Pons hopes her efforts to create this installation will focus attention on the current effort to restore this important landmark of Philadelphia history.

Campos-Pons produced a limited edition print (shown here) with master printer Lori Spencer. In addition, she created textiles and wallpaper for the installations during her visiting artist residency at the Borowsky Center for Publication Arts at The University of the Arts in the summer of 2007.