

THOMAS
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A COLLABORATION BETWEEN THOMAS NICKLES PROJECT & PAN AMERICAN ART PROJECTS

CARLOS ESTÉVEZ: *INWARD LIGHT*

March 30 - May 18, 2024
Thomas Nickles Project
47 Orchard St, New York, NY 10002
Opening Reception:
Saturday, March 30, 6 - 8 pm



ROGER TOLEDO: *UNPAINTING*

March 29 - May 18, 2024
Pan American Art Projects
21 NE 39th Street, Miami, FL 33137
Opening Reception:
Friday, March 29, 6 - 9 pm



New York, NY – Thomas Nickles Project is pleased to announce the first solo exhibition with the gallery of Cuban-born artist Carlos Estévez. Animated by a deep interest in questions of human spirituality, Estévez's stated goal is to use his work to reveal the invisible realm of the spirit that lies hidden beneath the visible world, a process he refers to as an alchemical, metaphysical transformation of mystery into knowledge. With a three-decade practice and a transdisciplinary voice; the imagery populating his work bears a dreamy quality. Estevez's upcoming exhibition, *Inward Light*, will be presented as part of a collaboration with the Miami based gallery Pan American Art Projects.

Inward Light is —as the artist notes— *an invitation to reflect on the challenges of the present, using art as a tool to illuminate the inner path*. The conceptual underpinnings and formal qualities of *Inward Light* reflect Estévez's interest in depictions of spiritual guidance —Art can be a beacon, for those who want to follow it. Each piece in the exhibition, whether a painting, drawing or sculpture, reimagines a lighthouse populated by his recurring fantastical architectures and cosmic geometries manipulating real and illusory space as seen in *Polifon Lighthouse*. Estévez uses golden colors on a black background, varied textures, and protruding sculptural elements to draw viewers into a layered, contemplative experience ongoing throughout the exhibition. With *Inward Light*, Carlos Estévez maps a spiritual landscape that resembles our own, reflecting the energies, longings and sublimations in which the search for a better life is woven.

Opening at the same time in Miami, Pan American Art Projects will present *Unpainting* by gallery artist Roger Toledo. With his exhibition Toledo attempts to deconstruct the nature of the paintings he examines, all validated by their presence in museums: he extracts and separates the pigments from the forms that contain them. The pieces conceptually approach formalist criticism and the valorization of painting as an art object.

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Carlos Estévez (b. Havana, Cuba, 1969) is a recipient of the Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters & Sculptors Grant, the Cintas Foundation Fellowship in Visual Arts, The Ellies Creator Award, and the Grand Prize in the First Salon of Contemporary Cuban Art in Havana. Carlos Estévez was born and raised in Cuba and moved to Miami in 2004. He graduated from the University of Arts (ISA) in Havana and solo exhibitions of his work have been presented at the National Museum of Fine Arts, Havana; Tucson Museum of Art, Arizona; The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University, Miami; Center of Contemporary Art, New Orleans; Lowe Art Museum at Miami University, Florida and the Stoors Gallery at University of North Carolina Charlotte. Estévez has participated in group exhibitions presented at the 6th and 7th Havana Biennials; the 1st Biennial of Martinique; Arizona State University Art Museum in Tempe; Pérez Art Museum Miami, Florida; Maison de l’Amérique Latin, Paris, France; Casa de América, Palacio de Linares, Madrid, Spain; and several others. His work is included in numerous prestigious collections, such as those of the National Museum of Fine Arts, Havana; Museum of Fine Art, Boston; The Ludwig Forum, Aachen, Germany; The Bronx Museum, New York; Perez Art Museum Miami, Florida; Drammens Museum for Kunst of Kulturhistorie, Norway; Tucson Museum of Art, Arizona; Denver Art Museum, Colorado; Yale University Art Gallery, Connecticut; Arizona State University Art Museum, Arizona; Fort Lauderdale Art Museum, Florida; The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum at FIU, Florida; The Mint Museum, North Carolina; BNY Mellon Art Collection, New York and The Lowe Art Museum, Florida. Estévez has been an artist-in-residence in Academia de San Carlos, UNAM, Mexico; Gasworks Studios, London, England; The UNESCO-ASCHBERG in The Nordic Artists’ Center in Dale, Norway; Art-OMI Foundation, New York; The Massachusetts College of Art, Boston; Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris; Montclair University, New Jersey; Siena Art Institute, Italy; Sacatar Foundation, Isla Itaparica, Salvador de Bahía, Brazil; McColl Center for Art + Innovation in Charlotte, NC; Residency Unlimited, NY; the Bogliasco foundation, Italy; among other places. The Estevez’s first monograph «Carlos Estévez: Entelechy. Works from 1992 to 2018», by Carol Damian, Ph.D. was published in 2019 by Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block, Arizona; also, «Images of Thought. Philosophical Interpretations of Carlos Estévez’s Art», by Jorge J. E. Gracia was published in 2009 by State University of New York Press, Albany; and «Carlos Estévez: Bottles to the Sea», edited by Jorge J. E. Gracia was published in 2015 by State University of New York Press, Albany. He lives and works in Miami.

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Additional images available upon request.

Hours: Wed – Sun 11am – 6pm, Thurs 11am – 7pm.