

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## *Torn Canvas Project*

Thomas Nickles Project presents *Torn Canvas Project* by the Cuban born artist William Pérez.

### EXHIBITION DETAILS:

July 8 - August 27, 2022

Location: 47 Orchard Street

Hours: Tues - Sat, 11AM – 6PM



*Torn Canvas (Chimpanzee 2)*, 2022  
Living Nature Series  
Acrylic on canvas  
60" x 60"

Image courtesy of the artist and Thomas Nickles Project

Thomas Nickles Project is pleased to present *Torn Canvas Project*, William Pérez's first solo exhibition with the gallery. Characterized by curiosity, diversity and inventiveness, Pérez's work embodies transformation. *Torn Canvas Project* presents a multimedia conceptual work that progresses from an acrylic drawing on canvas to a performance piece where the canvas is converted into 60 individual fragments/sculptural artifacts, all captured in a documentary video, as well as seven fully enact canvases, each a dramatic display of emotion in its purest form with expressive red lines tracing the faces and sharp fangs of a variety simians—all the materialization of restlessness with his creative process, rebelliousness against any form of inertia, and a desire for radical change, particularly in light of recent events in his native Cuba.

Featuring seven intact works on canvas, five of medium scale and one larger, all from the *Living Nature Series*, part of the ongoing *Torn Canvas Project*, a documentary video of the artist process and multiples examples of the fragments/sculptural artifacts results of *Torn Canvas Project No 1*, the exhibit is focused on the moment of transformative action and the participation of the spectator in the evolutionary process of the work and its performance. The works on view present a constellation of ideas that defy rigid categorization or definition. Instead, the exhibition points to a vigorous manifestation of change and transformation from one state to another, outlining a bridge between painting, sculpture, installation, and performance. Therein lies the artist's true objective: to develop, in front of our astonished eyes, which would perhaps prefer the original drawing to remain intact, the capacity of transformation, of the evolution of an idea, and with it, the potential of adaptation to new values within ourselves.

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William Perez paints raw emotions, then cuts them, through an exercise that is both calculated action and sensory meaning, the 100 x 300-inch finished canvas into 60 equal vertical strips with a knife, signs and numbers them, carefully rolls and mounts the individual strips/fragments in a separate Lucite box, each now an independent work with its own destiny and purpose. The 60 final works can also migrate out into the furthest reaches of the globe. By documenting the stewards and destination of each piece and keeping all the participants connected, William is also shaping a map of his own, in which to recognize himself in the multiplicity. He is in effect, creating an extended version of his territory, which like the Cuban diaspora we find a vibrant and moving notion.

Born in the city of Cienfuegos, Cuba in 1965, William Perez graduated from San Alejandro Academy of Fine Arts in Havana in 1986. His professional career includes solo and group exhibitions and biennials in Cuba and abroad such as: *Adrenaline #1*, 25 Kent Wallplay, New York, NY, 2020; *Self-Illuminate*, El Barrio Art Space PS 109, New York, NY, 2017; *Soul Cartography*, Villa Manuela Gallery, Havana, Cuba, 2017; *There is always a place*, Salt Fine Art Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA, 2015; *Living Together*, Havana Biennial, 2012. As a transdisciplinary artist William has completed several residencies including: El Barrio's Artspace PS 109, Funded by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, 2017; The Art Omi Artists Residency, Ghent, NY, 2013; The Nordic Artists Centre, Artist-in-Residence Centre, Funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Culture, 2002; The Adventurous Fall Residency in Denmark, 1997; and The Gotear Kunstforum in Germany, 1994. His work is in numerous private collections and the public collections including MOLAA, Los Angeles, CA and the Shelley and Donald Rubin Collection, New York, NY. He lives and works in Union City, New Jersey.

**Press Inquiries**

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