

SAMUEL RIERA (b. Havana, Cuba 1978)

Samuel Riera was born in Havana, Cuba in 1978 and graduated from the San Alejandro National Academy of Fine Arts where he specialized in Engraving and studied Graphic Art at the Higher Institute of Art (ISA). He has served as Professor of Engraving at San Alejandro from 2001-2006.

Samuel is a creator who demands art to be a permanent endeavor. The great range of resources he works with makes him a multidisciplinary artist who explores his reality without respite.

Analytical Boards assimilates the wear, the disuse, the obsolete technology as aesthetic. Patterns that can be easily related to social schemes prevailing in the present Cuban reality are explored, such as the espionage of the absurd, the aggressive and obsolete behavior within society, as well as the lack of Internet and high tech, elements that constrain and shape thought, consciousness and the possibility of establishing future patterns of a more suitable reality.

"Error is always the best source, and the most needed; error is the opportune twist to reality that transforms things, it is the patron guided by the divine that ends up as art because nobody defines it."

-Samuel Riera

In 2005 he was awarded the Tamarind Institute Scholarship (Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA), dedicated to lithographic studies and was granted the Grand Prize for Graphic Art, sponsored by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation and the Embassy of Spain in Cuba.

In 2012, Samuel founded RIERA STUDIO with the objective of creating an autonomous space for dialogue, diagnosis and cooperation amongst alternative discourses dealing with Cuban art, supporting primarily the presence and development of peripheral (outsider) art beyond the centrist current and in 2013, he created Art Brut Project Cuba, aimed at building an action program throughout Cuba that allows to recognize, catalogue, support and advertise the work of Cuban Art Brut creators.

Samuel has taken part in more than one hundred collective exhibitions in Cuba and abroad. Currently he exhibits his work at the permanent collection of the First Museum of Cuban Art in Vienna, Austria, as well as in the collection of the New York University.

His work is also exhibited in personal collections in Spain, Denmark, USA, Japan, Venezuela, Costa Rica, South Africa and Cuba. Among others, his works have been exhibited in: Wilfredo Lam Center of Contemporary Art (Havana, Cuba); Casa de las Américas (Havana, Cuba); Visual Arts Development Center (Havana, Cuba); Center of Contemporary Art (Mérida, Mexico), Museum of Contemporary Art and Design (San José, Costa Rica); Salon International of Paris, Gallery Nesle Espace (France); Grand Foundation León Jiménez (Santiago de los Caballeros, República Dominicana); Espacio Aglutinador Gallery (Havana, Cuba); Art Museum of the Americas (Washington DC, USA); National Gallery of Honduras; Museum of Contemporary Art of Taipei (Taiwan).

Presently, his artistic work moves fluently through a variety of techniques, encompassing Graphic Arts, Painting, Video Art, Cinema and Installation. He has imparted conferences on Video Art in Cuba, Venezuela and Mexico and participated in international festivals such as the Festival of Alternative Cinema (Mexico), the Festival of Young Filmmakers (Cuba), the Low Budget Film Festival of Gibara (Cuba) and the II International Festival of Cuban Cinema in Munich (Germany).

The artist currently lives and works in Havana, Cuba.