

GALLERY
WENDI NORRIS

PRESS RELEASE

Gallery Wendi Norris is pleased to present

Ana Teresa Fernández

Of Bodies and Borders

November 2 - December 8, 2018

Little Haiti

6391 Second Avenue

Miami, FL

Exhibition Opening | Friday, November 2

Exhibition Hours | Thursday - Saturday, 11am - 5pm



Of Bodies and Borders 1 (performance documentation), 2017, Oil on canvas, 54 x 94 inches (137.2 x 238.7 cm)

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, September 17, 2018 -- Since 2014, close to 120,000 migrants and refugees have crossed the Central Mediterranean departing from Libya, Tunisia or Egypt on the route known as the “deadliest border in the world”. To date, according to the New York Times, 13,000 migrants have been recorded as killed or missing on this border.

Once saturating the North American news, this crisis has been distilled to the periphery of our awareness. For Ana Teresa Fernández’s third solo exhibition, “Of Bodies and Borders”, Fernández aims to refocus attention on the plight of the thousands of migrants through a new body of work, including video, painting, drawing, and installation.

GALLERY WENDI NORRIS

Pivoting from her previous work on U.S./Mexico border to the Mediterranean Sea, this five-year project was filmed in various locations off the island of Poros, Greece. All of the works in the exhibition stem from Fernández's performance in the depths of the ocean. In the video, "Drawn Below", she dons her signature little black dress and heels, weighted down with 13-pound weights. While submerged, she wrestles with a bed sheet for hours, exemplifying an enduring physical and psychological performance.

Her large-scale documentary oil paintings illustrate her suspended underwater: swimming, floating, and plummeting into a dark, eerie abyss. The meticulous layering of color and brushwork further emphasize the complexity and tension between water, cloth, and the artist's body. In the series of documentary drawings titled, "Gauging Gravity", Fernández's identity is eventually erased, only recognized by bodily fragments inside a void. Furthermore, an installation of cement oars acts as a literal and allegorical representation of what remains after these treacherous crossings.

This new work observes what exists within liminal spaces, seeking what is lost in the margins, between light and shadow, positive and negative space, heavy and buoyant, seen and unseen. Fernández seeks to champion the invisible, unrecognized, undervalued, and in danger of sinking into oblivion.

As Gallery Wendi Norris' fourth off-site exhibition and Fernández's east coast debut, "Of Bodies and Borders" will be presented in a non-profit space in Miami, FL, in the vibrant arts community of Little Haiti, also known as "the U.S. cultural heart of the Haitian diaspora". The neighborhood parallels histories of migration, particularly the Haitian refugees during the late 1970s to early 1990s, and builds upon Fernández's 2006 public artwork and activism in Haiti. Moreover, the site presents a unique opportunity to work with an art non-profit whose program serves the local intergenerational arts community.

The exhibition will travel to the Grunwald Gallery at Indiana University in January 2019. Indiana University will publish a book in November, to be released in Miami, featuring an essay by María Elena Ortíz, Associate Curator at the Pérez Art Museum Miami.

About Ana Teresa Fernández

For Mexican-born, San Francisco-based artist Ana Teresa Fernández, performance is a primary research tool in her meticulous multimedia practice. Through her work, the artist illuminates psychological, physical, and socio-political barriers that define gender, race, and class in Western society. Fernández's work also examines global socio-political crises relating to immigration policies and its effects on marginalized populations.

Fernández has exhibited at the Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO, the Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, NV, Arizona State University Art Museum, Phoenix, AZ, the Grunwald Gallery at Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, Humboldt State University, Eureka, CA; the Tijuana Biennial, Tijuana, Mexico; Snite Museum at Notre Dame University, Notre Dame, IN; Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA and The Oakland Art

GALLERY WENDI NORRIS

Museum, Oakland, CA. Her work has been collected by institutions such the Denver Art Museum, the Nevada Museum of Art, and Kadist Art Foundation.

About Gallery Wendi Norris

From its global headquarters in San Francisco, Gallery Wendi Norris represents Modern and Contemporary artists working in a variety of media around the world. The gallery specializes in re-contextualizing the work of Modern artists while providing connections to contemporary art, artists, and culture. Active on both the local and international stages, Gallery Wendi Norris mounts exhibitions where they are most relevant, and also works with individual collectors and museums in both the primary and secondary markets. Founded with an emphasis on scholarship and education, the gallery produces highly researched exhibitions and catalogues, sponsors artist talks, hosts visiting academics, and engages in public art projects.

Along with Ana Teresa Fernández, Gallery Wendi Norris represents: Firelei Báez, Val Britton, Leonora Carrington, María Magdalena Campos-Pons, Chris Fraser, Chitra Ganesh, Marcel Jean, Julio César Morales, Ranu Mukherjee, Yamini Nayar, Wolfgang Paalen, Miguel Angel Ríos, Eva Schlegel, Dorothea Tanning, Remedios Varo, and Peter Young. For more information on these artists visit gallerywendinorris.com.