

“Between Heaven and Earth” Exhibit at Hubert Library at FIU’s Biscayne Bay Campus

Currently on display at the Glenn Hubert Library, *Between Heaven and Earth* is culmination of paintings rendered out by artist, Miguel Saludes since 2016. Together, these 17 works bring to light Miguel’s creative process, which embraces experimentation and change as a driving force between each piece.

Works created after 2016, consist of a series that bridges the genres of landscape and still life. These paintings depict flat surfaces such as floors, walls, and patches of grass and blooming flowers. These horizonless compositions are meant to entrap the viewer’s eyes within the confines of the canvas and invite them to explore the minute occurrences happening throughout the surface. From a distance, however, these images morph into open fields of light and color to evoke sublime,

boundless, celestial spaces.

The counterpart in this exhibition is a parallel series also emerging from 2016, but more rooted in the history of landscape painting. These are windows into illusionary scapes and are populated by cloud-spotted skies and lushly vegetated fields. A large portion of these paintings are set in Florida, the state in which Miguel has called home for over a decade. Some landscapes pay close attention to detail and local hues while others give precedence to more abstract, bright and colorful compositions.

Between feathery clouds and busily intertwined leaves, the artist finds his two dispositions. One, spiritual and meditative, searching for higher meaning in nature. The other, conscientiously grounded, finding beauty and meaning in his imme-

diolate surroundings. In the end, they both unite in elevating fleeting commonplace moments to the immortality so uniquely gifted by interwoven cotton fibers and richly colored pigments.

The exhibition runs until Friday, May 17, 2019.

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Miguel Saludes was born in 1989 in Cojimar, a small fishing town located in East Havana, Cuba. His father, Miguel Saludes Sr. a shipyard technical inspector-turned political activist, is one of the founding members of the Cuban Christian Liberation Movement (*Movimiento Cristiano de Liberación*) and of the Varela Project (*Proyecto Varela*) which sought to promote elections, and basic civil rights and freedoms in Castro’s regime. His mother,

Lourdes Gonzalez, is a seasoned Spanish language educator whose teachings have reached children, adolescents, and adults alike. Due to his father’s role in the dissidence, Saludes’ family was persecuted by the Cuban government for an extended period of time, which eventually drove the family to seek political asylum in the United States.

In 2005, the Saludes settled in Miami, Florida. Saludes graduated from Florida International University with a BFA in painting in 2012 and earned an MFA in painting from the University of Florida in 2016. Saludes’ work has thus far been acquired by public and private collections across the state of Florida, in New York, Louisiana, and California. Saludes currently lives and works between the cities of Bonita Springs and Miami, Florida.

