Review of Exhibition

HERE AND THERE: DETERRITORIALIZING MIAMI AND HAVANA

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The Cushing-Martin Gallery at Stonehill College invited the public to welcome one of the most acclaimed Cuban-American artists, Nereida García-Ferraz, for an exhibition of her work, “Here and There: Deterritorializing Miami and Havana.” As this was García-Ferraz’s first solo show in New England, an exhibit which ran from April 4–May 7 of 2005, the Cushing-Martin Gallery was honored to be part of such a momentous debut. García-Ferraz’s new work, while combining digital photography and drawings, seeks to express the dichotomy that is life in Cuba and life in the United States. The relationships and identities that are formed between García-Ferraz’s biography and her discussion of culture amplify her vision as a woman and as an artist. Through works of memory, loss and displacement due to exile, the fragmentation of Cuban culture, and the possibilities of national reconciliation, Here and There is both a reflection and projection of culture and society. The dislocation of experience and revocation of membership that have bound García-Ferraz inexorably to her history make her story not only informative but poignant. Her personal and professional development is informed by the multifaceted experience of exile as well as the hybridization of Caribbean and North American culture.

This body of work is an investigation of my own history as a Cuban-American. My drawings are about connecting voices and influences, reacting to news media and remembering the Cuban landscape.
—Nereida García-Ferraz, artist’s statement, Here and There exhibition, 2005

García-Ferraz was born in Havana in 1954 and immigrated to the United States in 1970. She grew up in Chicago and received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1981 from the Art Institute of Chicago. García-Ferraz has
developed regard as one of the most significant Cuban-American artists with countless exhibitions throughout many of the most prestigious venues in the country. Among various awards and accolades, García-Ferraz has been the recipient of fellowships from such distinguished fine arts organizations as the National Endowment for the Arts, the Ford Foundation, and the Richard Diebenkorn Fellowship from the San Francisco Art Institute. García-Ferraz founded the photography program at Movimento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana, also known as the San José Center for Latino Arts or MACLA. She is the co-producer of the seminal documentary, _Fuego de Tierra_, which covers the life and work of Ana Mendieta. This video won Best Video Documentary in the 1988 National Latino Film Festival, and was selected by Museum of Modern Art and Women Make Movies as one of the top 25 documentaries. Currently the documentary is being shown as part of the Ana Mendieta traveling retrospective at the Whitney Museum, the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C., and the Miami Art Museum. García-Ferraz currently lives in Miami, Florida and has been teaching and exhibiting in the United States since 1977.