

ON COMMON GROUND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC + HAITI

AMA | Art Museum of the Americas
Organization of American States
1889 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Opening Reception

Wed., February 13, 2013 at 6PM

On view

February 13 - May 26, 2013

Mon - Fri | 9AM - 5PM



Marc Lee Steed. *Untitled*, 2012. Metallic kodak print. 40x30"

Julio Valdez. *The Grey Echo*, 2002. Silk aquatint and Monotype. 29.5x39.5"

AMA | Art Museum of the Americas of the Organization of American States (OAS), with the Embassies of the Dominican Republic and Haiti in Washington, D.C., is proud to present *On Common Ground: Dominican Republic and Haiti*. The exhibition features contemporary artwork by emerging artists of Hispaniola, the island that these two countries share. These artists offer fresh perspectives on their cultural scene and address misconceptions surrounding its two nations' complex relationship with one another, imagining a brighter future. This exhibition furthers AMA's mission of promoting the Inter-American agenda through the promotion of democracy and social change through the arts, consensus building, and the encouragement of diversity.

Curated by Haitian Gaël Monnin, the exhibition examines everyday aspects of the islanders' states of mind; their contradicting feelings of frustration and contentment; the desire to leave and the hope to stay. The role of nature is highlighted in the exhibition, both as a source of life and as a cause of destruction. The island is often viewed as a tropical paradise, even when Nature challenges this vision and the aspirations of Hispaniola's inhabitants. While the Dominican Republic and Haiti are indeed culturally, socially and economically diverse, *On Common Ground: Dominican Republic and Haiti* explores historic and present-day commonalities that continue to shape the identities of current and future generations. This reflection leads to the third theme of the exhibition, which examines the concept of reciprocity and the interconnectedness of these two nations.

The exhibition seeks to find a structure within the multifaceted relationship between people and the places to which they belong, looking to the island's social history. This dialogue brings fresh air to both sides of the island, stepping outside of Hispaniola to continue the discourse among emerging artists of both countries and offering a new perspective.

Dominican Artists

Natalia Ortega Gámez
Hulda Guzmán
Gustavo Peña
Engel Leonardo
Julio Valdez

Haitian Artists

Killy (Patrick Ganthier)
Marc Lee Steed
Jean Emmanuel
Manuel Mathieu
Pascale Monnin