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Geometrically Speaking — A Panel Discussion

Wednesday | July 29 | 6:30pm | BCA's Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos

(July 2, 2015 — Bronx, NY) Longwood Arts Project, the visual arts program of the Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA), invites you to **Geometrically Speaking**, on Wednesday, July 29 at 6:30pm at BCA's Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos. This public program, presented in conjunction with the exhibition **Freddy Rodriguez: My Geometries 1970-2002** (on view through August 5), is a conversation about the role of geometry in the work of Freddy Rodriguez with Alejandro Anreus, E. Carmen Ramos and Freddy Rodriguez. Admission is free and open to the public. RSVP: Longwood Art Gallery is located on the campus of Hostos Community College at 450 Grand Concourse at 149th Street in the Mott Haven section of the Bronx. **Information:** 718-518-6728.

RSVP: https://bronxarts.secure.force.com/ticket/#sections_a0Fd000000b4QxjEAE.

During the program, moderated by Deborah Cullen, Director & Chief Curator of the Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery at NYC's Columbia University, Mr. Anreus will touch upon the tradition of painting that Rodriguez comes from, how he subverts geometry and the significance of Julio Cortázar to his aesthetic, while Ms. Ramos will explore the relationships between Rodriguez's art and his adoptive home of New York City.

Alejandro Anreus has been professor of art history and Latin American/Latino Studies at William Paterson University since September 2001. As curator at the Jersey City Museum, his previous position 1993, he organized two solo exhibitions of Rodriguez's work. He authored five books and sixty catalogue essays and articles. His writing has appeared in *Art Journal*, *Aztlán*, *Third Text*, *Encuentro de la Cultura Cubana* and *Commonweal*. His most recent book, a monograph on Luis Cruz Azaceta, was part of the 2014 *A Ver* series.

E. Carmen Ramos has been curator for Latino art at the Smithsonian American Art Museum since 2010. She organized the major touring exhibition, *Our America: The Latino Presence in American Art*, whose catalogue received a 2014 first prize Award for Excellence by the Association of Art Museum Curators. Ramos was a curator at New Jersey's Newark Museum and an independent curator working with institutions such as El Museo del Barrio, Aljira, and the New Jersey Visual Arts Center. She has published on Latin American and Latino artists for El Museo del Barrio and The Blanton Museum and in such journals as *American Art*, *African Arts* and others.

Deborah Cullen, PhD, is Director & Chief Curator of the Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery at NYC's Columbia University. In fall 2014, Cullen curated the first retrospective on printmaker Robert Blackburn (1920-2003) for the David C. Driskell Center for the Study of the Visual Arts and Culture of African Americans and the African Diaspora, at University of Maryland, College Park. She wrote her dissertation for CUNY Graduate Center on the legendary Jamaican-American printmaker. She recently curated *Interruption: The 30th Biennial of Graphic Arts* (Ljubljana, Slovenia, fall 2013). In 2012, Cullen was Chief Curator of The Hive: The Third Poligraphic Triennial of San Juan (Puerto Rico). She served over 15 years at NYC's El Museo del Barrio as Director of Curatorial Programs. Her projects included participating in the curatorial team and co-editing the 500-page anthology, *Caribbean: Crossroads of the World* (2012). She curated *Retro/Active: The Work of Rafael Ferrer* (2010) and authored the monograph *Rafael Ferrer* for UCLA's Chicano Studies Research Center; *Nexus New York: Latin/American Artists in the Modern Metropolis* (2009); and *Arte (no es) Vida: Actions by Artists of the Americas 1960-2000* (2008) for which she received a 2006 Emily Hall Tremain Exhibition Award.

Freddy Rodriguez was born in 1945 in Santiago de los Treinta Caballeros, Dominican Republic. He moved to New York in 1963 in the midst of the political unrest following the assassination of the Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo. He studied painting at the Art Students League and the New School for Social Research with painters Carmen Cicero and John Dobbs. Rodríguez studied textile design at Fashion Institute of Technology where he created some of his earliest geometric abstractions. His work is in the collections of Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Newark Museum, the Queens Museum of Art and the Bronx Museum of the Arts, among others. Rodríguez is the subject of a forthcoming *A Ver Revisioning Art History* monograph written by Smithsonian American Art Museum curator E. Carmen Ramos and published by the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center.

Freddy Rodríguez: My Geometries 1970-2002 spans more than three decades presenting paintings, drawings and mixed media — geometric work that Rodríguez has developed since moving to New York City. His work includes large, abstract paintings with bands of solid colors in varying dimensions. Using luminous, conspicuous colors, Rodríguez creates a series of angular forms that cross the vast spaces of a canvas with aplomb. Using tape to carefully construct his complex linear systems, he underscores his affinity with geometric abstraction.

Gallery Summer Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday: 12:00-5:00pm. **Directions to Hostos Community College:** Subway: 2, 4 & 5 trains; Bus: BX1, BX2 & BX19; all destinations to 149th Street/Grand Concourse.

Learn more about Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos and its exhibitions, as well as other programs and activities of the Bronx Council on the Arts at www.bronxarts.org.

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Bronx Writers Center • BCA @ 2700 • Longwood Art Gallery

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