



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Toys & Games with a Twist Opening Reception at BCA's Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos on Wednesday, December 7, 2011**

(November 29, 2011 — Bronx, NY) The Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos, the contemporary art center of the Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA), presents **Toys & Games with a Twist**, an exhibition of work by over 30 artists on view in the Main Gallery through February 1, 2012. Curated by Juanita Lanzo and Vanessa Gonzalez, the show focuses on how toys are used to comment on socio-political issues and current topics. The opening reception will be held on Wednesday, December 7, from 5:00-9:00pm, in conjunction with that evening's Bronx Culture Trolley. Longwood is located on the campus of Hostos Community College at 450 Grand Concourse at 149th Street. Admission is free and all are welcome.

**Toys & Games with a Twist** investigates and comments on issues of construction of gender roles and stereotypes, consumerism, hierarchies of power, globalization, migration, memory and loss, fantasy, the environment, love, war, violence, urban and popular culture. **Artists include:** Jennifer Bakalar, daniel Baltzer, Amir Bey, Chris Bors, Peter A. Brinson & Kurosh ValaNejad, Nick Black, Mark Blackshear, Anton Cabaleiro, Melissa A. Calderon, Hector Canonge, Gigi Chen, William Corwin, Regina Farrell, Susan Finch, Orlando Franco, Terri Gold, Rory Golden, Andra Gunraj, Christopher Hart Chambers, Meredith Hedges, Jessica Kaire, Zoe Keramea, nancy koan, Reiko Kawahara, Sujin Lee, Zaun Lee, Cecilia Mandrile, Lawrence Mascia & Clay Ewing, Nao Matsumoto, Ashley McClennon, John Meza, Ira Merritt & Aaron Olshan, Niu Miao & Don Wei Lei, Ricardo Miranda-Zuñiga, Chalice Mitchell, Alfonso Muñoz, Shervone Neckles, Douglas Newton, Erika Pettersen, Dave Rittinger, Margaret Roleke, Peter Rywelski, Miriam Schaer, Jamel Shabazz, StatusHoe Collective, Fred Stesney, Tattfoo Tan, Monica Velez, Jose A. Vicenty, Bree Westphal, and Mary Wharmby. This exhibition was curated by Longwood Gallery Director Juanita Lanzo and Vanessa Gonzalez. **Adult Content!**

**For Toys and Games with a Twist, Longwood is partnering with Curate NYC**, a juried exhibition and online marketplace that exists to heighten exposure and opportunities for New York City visual artists. The project also helps promote New York City's image as a vital cultural hub. Launched in 2010 by [Full Spectrum Experience, Inc.](#) and the [New York City Economic Development Corporation](#), **Curate NYC** provides a free online platform for curators, collectors, and art lovers everywhere to discover work by hundreds of local artists. Last year, **Curate NYC** attracted 1,200 entries in three weeks. The project generated 600,000 website hits in three weeks, and positive news in [The Huffington Post](#), [The New York Times](#), [The L Magazine](#), and on [The Brian Lehrer Show](#). In 2011, one art gallery per borough will curate and exhibit their own shows of actual works by **Curate NYC** artists. After the call-for-entries, we will open the **Curate NYC** E-Marketplace, allowing artists to upload more than one entry and to sell the work from their website.

**About the Curators:** **Juanita Lanzo** has been the Director and Curator of Longwood Art Gallery since 2008. She has organized *Longwood Arts Project's 25th Anniversary Digital Matrix* at Haven Art Gallery and *Material Culture ...in the City: Memory, Places and Spaces* at Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos. Publications include an essay for Chakaia Booker for the Bronx Museum of the Art's 25th anniversary catalogue *Collection Remixed*. Ms. Lanzo graduated from City College of New York (MFA) and from University of Puerto Rico (BFA). **Vanessa Gonzalez** received her B.A. in art history from SUNY Purchase in 2008. She is an aspiring Bronx-based curator who has a fascination with the intersections of technology, pop culture, art activism and digital art. Vanessa strongly believes in work with potential to change the world. She has curated shows for BAAD! (Bronx Academy for Arts and Dance) and Nuyorican Poets Cafe. Vanessa currently works at the Bronx Council on the Arts as an Assistant Project Coordinator. She is also the assistant to the director of the Bronx Heroes Comic Con.

**On Saturday, December 10, 2011**, from 1:00 to 4:00pm, all are invited to get your **Game On! Game On!** is a hyper-charged day of interactive fun at the Longwood Art Gallery. Exhibiting artists of *Toys & Games with a Twist* will be on site to give hands-on demonstrations and play-sessions with their exhibited work. With several interactive games, puzzles, toys and video games, **Game On!** promises to be a day of fun and excitement! Come join us! Visit [www.bronxarts.org/lag](http://www.bronxarts.org/lag) for updated information on this event. This workshop is in conjunction with that afternoon's Culture Trolley Saturdays.

**Longwood Arts Project** is BCA's contemporary art center supporting artists and exhibiting their work since 1981. Programs include the Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos, Digital Matrix Commissions Program, and public programs that provide opportunities for free and open dialogue. **Gallery Hours:** Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos is open Monday through Friday from 10:00am-6:00pm. It is closed on Sundays and major holidays. Please note that the gallery will be closed on Saturdays, Dec. 24 and Dec. 31, 2011. **Directions to Hostos:** The Longwood Art Gallery is located on the campus of Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse at 149th Street in the Bronx. Transportation: IRT 4 & 5, Bx1, Bx19 to Grand Concourse and 149 Street. **Information:** 718-518-6728 or [www.bronxarts.org](http://www.bronxarts.org).

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**Bronx Writers Center • Bronx Cultural Card • Longwood Art Gallery • BCA Development Corporation**

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