Cuban cultural celebration continues

The second segment of iSí Cubál, a major citywide presentation of arts, music and culture related to Cuba, is taking place at the New Orleans Museum of Art and Tulane’s Newcomb Art Gallery.

“Polaridad Complementaria: Recent Works from Cuba” is comprised of more than 50 works of painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, video and installation art that provide a sense of the serious aesthetic and conceptual concerns that characterize the island’s art today.

The 27 artists presented are mainly young artists who have attained international recognition. Many have taken part in fairs and biennials abroad and all have exhibited in Europe or Latin America and were featured in the 2009 Havana Biennial. Several artists have exhibited in the United States, including René Peña, Abel Barroso, Aimé García, Yoan Capote and Roberto Fabelo.

The show is curated by Jorge Fernandez Torres, vice director of the Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Willfredo Lam and curator of the Havana Biennial, and Margarita Sánchez Prieto, curator, researcher and art critic at the Centro. Both have curated major exhibitions and lectured around the world.

Other events organized in conjunction with the exhibit include a symposium titled “Collecting Cuban Art” on Jan. 28 and 29, hosted by the Newcomb Art Gallery, NOMA and the Cuban and Caribbean Studies Institute and Tulane Center for Scholars. Also on Jan. 28 at 6 p.m., Adolfo V. Nodal, Cuban-born author, artist, curator and president of the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Commission, will give a keynote address at NOMA’s Stern Auditorium. It will be followed by a walk-through of the galleries.

On Jan. 29 at 2 p.m., there will be two events at Tulane University’s Freeman Auditorium in the Woldenberg Art Center. Contemporary Cuban artist Tonel (Antonio Eligio Fernández Rodríguez) will lecture on recent Cuban art.

It will be followed from 3-5 p.m. by a panel with speakers Nodal, Ricardo Viera, Holly Block, Sandy Levinson, Dan Cameron and artist Tonel.

In celebration of this major exhibit, several art galleries and other art organizations are presenting works by Cuban artists and related programming.

Antenna Gallery has an exhibit titled Cuba Now through Feb. 7. Arthur Roger Gallery is showing the work of Luis Cruz Azaceta through Feb. 27. The Heriard-Cimino Gallery has the exhibit “Fragment of Journeys” by José Bedía through March 3. The Historic New Orleans Collection is showing “Louisiana and Cuba: Multiple Perspectives” through April 17. The Jonathan Ferrara Gallery exhibits “Inside Outside” by artist Angel Delgado through Feb. 17. LeMieux Galleries shows “Cuba in the 1930s” by Paul Ninan through Jan. 30. Louisiana ArtWorks will hold A Dialogue on Contemporary Cuban Art on Jan. 26, from 7-9 p.m. The Ogden Museum of Southern Art has a site-specific installation by José Bedía, Mario Petriera’s Soul House and Jorge Otero’s Unrestored Miami through April 11.

More venues and events in conjunction with iSí Cubál, will be announced during the upcoming months.

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Congratulations to Michelle “Micaela” Paule and her Flamenco Dance Company “Fiesta Flamencas” for the nomination by the Big Easy Fine Arts award for the best choreography of 2009. Winners will be announced at the Big Easy Classical Award banquet Feb. 9 at the Monteleone Hotel.

Other news in the flamenco arts scene is that guitarist John Lawrence and his Flamenco Dance Company “Ven Pa’ Ca” will perform at Galvez Restaurant in the French Quarter on Jan. 30.

Paule teaches children and adults classes at the New Orleans Dance Academy, 5956 Magazine St. For more information, call 504.889.1200 or 504.889.3780.

Laura Jerez will teach flamenco dance technique and choreography in a workshop at Tulane’s McWilliams Hall on weekends. For more information, call 504.281.0766 or e-mail ljerez_danza@yahoo.com.

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