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Coco Fusco's Works on Cuba at The Ringling

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The Ringling in Sarasota, Florida will host a selection of recent video projects by interdisciplinary artist and writer <u>Coco Fusco</u> in "Twilight," beginning October 14, 2018.

The show features the world premiere of two new works by Fusco — one video and one outdoor sculpture. These look at how Cuba is transitioning to a post-Castro era and explores the current political and social climate in the country. "Like all of the artist's projects, the videos and sculpture in 'Coco Fusco: Twilight' operate at and examine the intersection of politics and culture," states the museum. Three videos — "La botella al mar de Maria Elena/The Message in a Bottle from Maria Elena" (2015), "La confesion/The Confession" (2015), and "La Plaza Vacia/The Empty Plaza" (2012) — will be shown together in high-definition single-channel video, alongside an installation of "Y entonces el mar te habla/And the Sea Will Talk to You" (2012). "The time-based work making its debut in the exhibition is a video essay created in response to the realities faced by artists and writers working in Cuba today," the museum adds.

Apart from the video works the show also unveils a new interactive sculpture "Tin Man Trump" by the artist on the grounds adjacent to the museum. This work is a monumental statue of President Donald Trump as the Tin Man from The Wizard of Oz. According to the museum, "with reference to the Tin Man of popular culture, Fusco infers that President Trump's statements on race, gender, and immigration policy reflect a lack of heart. Exhibiting 'Tin Man Trump' in concert with Fusco's work on Cuba as part of Twilight is a powerful reminder of the importance of dissent and freedom of expression in an open, democratic society."

<u>Coco Fusco</u> (b. 1960) is a Cuban-American interdisciplinary artist, writer, and curator. She received her Bachelor's in semiotics from Brown University, an M.A. in modern thought and literature from Stanford University and a Ph.D. in art and visual culture from

Middlesex University in the U.K. Her projects have been featured at biennials, festivals, and museums across the globe. The artist is a recipient of several international awards and fellowships, including a 2013 Guggenheim Fellowship and a Herb Alpert Award in the Arts. In 2016, she won the Hermitage Artist Retreat's Greenfield Prize. And in the same year, Fusco was named the Andrew Banks Family Endowed Chair and Professor of Art at the University of Florida. She is based in Gainesville, Florida, and New York.

"Twilight" runs from October 14, 2018, through February 17, 2019, at John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, 5401 Bay Shore Rd, Sarasota, FL 34243, USA.

For details, visit: <u>http://www.blouinartinfo.com/galleryguide/john-and-mable-ringling-museum-of-art/overview</u>

Click on the slideshow for a sneak peek at the exhibition.

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