



Tufts University Art Gallery
Aidekman Arts Center

Magdalena Campos-Pons: My Mother Told Me (working title)

"Let us never forget our origins; the future is full of the unforeseen." --African proverb cited by the artist

Exhibition on view September 5 to December 15, 2013
Tisch Family Gallery, Tufts University Art Gallery

Public Opening Reception: Thursday, September 12, 5:30 to 8 pm



Internationally recognized, Boston-based Afro-Cuban artist Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons will exhibit five new and recent multi-media installations at the Tufts University Art Gallery during the fall 2013 semester. Campos-Pons will represent Cuba at the 2013 Venice Biennale, opening in late May, and will exhibit new work created for the Biennale at Tufts, along with installations from the late 1990s to the present never before exhibited in Boston. Campos-Pons has been on the faculty of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston since 1991, when she emigrated from Cuba. The exhibition is organized by Tufts University Art Gallery Director Amy Schlegel (amy.schlegel@tufts.edu) and is timed to

celebrate the launch of the Africana Studies Program at Tufts in the fall of 2013. A series of special public programs will be offered in conjunction with the exhibition being coordinated with the Africana Studies Program.

Renowned for her large-format Polaroid photographs and immersive multi-media environments, Campos-Pons has pioneered a distinctive aesthetic melding photography, performance, video, sound, and sculpture. Her work has largely addressed autobiographical issues such as her relationship with her mother and with Cuba, motherhood, family, exile, and, more recently, the sugar industry and slave trade in Matanzas, her hometown. She is descended from Nigerian/ Yoruban, Chinese, and Hispanic ancestors and her work is infused with the spiritual traditions of her multi-ethnic heritage.



Spoken Softly With Mama

Born in 1959 in Matanzas, Cuba, Campos-Pons is a graduate of Escuela Nacional de Arte, and Instituto Superior de Arte, Painting, both in Havana, Cuba. She pursued graduate studies in Painting and Media Arts at the Massachusetts College of Art in 1988 before emigrating permanently in 1991. She has exhibited in Cuba and internationally since 1981, but will be exhibiting in Cuba in 2013 for the first time in a solo exhibition since 1989, when she finished her graduate studies. In 2007, a major exhibition and eponymous book, *Everything Is Separated by Water*, was organized and published by the Indianapolis Art Museum. Her work is in the collections of: the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; the Art Institute of Chicago; the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; the Victoria and Albert Museum, London; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Miami Art Museum; and the Fogg Art Museum, Harvard.