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FAU's University Galleries to Present 'Decolonizing Refinement: Contemporary Pursuits in the Art of Edouard Duval-Carrié'

BOCA RATON, Fla. (October 3, 2018) - The University Galleries at Florida Atlantic University's Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters will present "Decolonizing Refinement: Contemporary Pursuits in the Art of Edouard Duval-Carrié." The exhibition will be on view from Friday, Nov. 9 through Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019 in the Schmidt Center Gallery, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton campus. There will be an opening reception on Thursday, Nov. 8 at 6:30 p.m. featuring a lecture by Edouard Duval Carrié. The lecture and exhibition are free and open to the public.

Duval-Carrié is an internationally significant Miami-based Haitian-born artist who creates colorful, socially and politically-oriented narrative art that channels his knowledge and fascination with Haitian history, spiritual beliefs and folklore. For "Decolonizing Refinement," originally presented at The Fine Art Museum at Florida State University, Carrié's art is combined with historical artifacts related to Florida's agricultural labor history. Artifacts are borrowed from south Florida regional historical collections to expand understanding of Caribbean visual culture and the arts of the African Diaspora by implicating the colonial heritage of Florida and the broader Southeastern United States in circum-Caribbean histories.

Duval-Carrié's work navigates the historically rich and culturally complex traditions that comprise a uniquely Caribbean perspective. Duval-Carrié fled his homeland as a teenager, during the dictatorship of Francois Duvalier. He studied at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts in Paris and the University of Loyola Montreal in Quebec. Once completing his education, he established his workshop in Miami. Duval-Carrié's recent works attend to themes of water,

travel and Francophone culture. For this artist, water becomes both a symbolic passage and a barrier – the means by which enslaved Africans were brought to the Caribbean and modern-day Haitians migrate to the United States. Both circumstances have been driven by capitalism, a force that occupies Duval-Carrié’s work materially and iconographically.

Khaulah Naima Nuruddin serves as curator for the FAU version of the exhibition. Nuruddin has selected artifacts in collaboration with Duval-Carrié that will be borrowed from Broward County’s African American Research Library and Cultural Center; the Florida Department of State, Bureau of Archaeological Research; the Delray Beach Historical Society; the S.D. Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, Delray Beach; and the Archaeology collection in FAU’s Department of Anthropology. Nuruddin also has organized a concurrent sister exhibition of Duval-Carrié’s work and historical artifacts to be presented at the S.D. Spady Cultural Heritage Museum in Delray Beach.

In January 2019, FAU’s new “Study of the America’s Initiative” will complement the exhibition with a series of multi-disciplinary public programs that employ the “Decolonizing Refinement” exhibition as a point of departure to explore a variety of related social, political and humanities themes. On Monday, Jan. 14, 2019 at 4 p.m., an FAU faculty panel will present “Women’s Writings, The Economy and Social Justice in the Caribbean.” On Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019, an all-day symposium, “Visualizing Decolonization,” will be presented in collaboration with the Boca Raton Museum of Art’s “Imagining Florida: History and Myth in the Sunshine State” (Nov. 13 – March 24, 2019). On Jan. 26 an all-day symposium at FAU will feature the Florida State University scholars who organized the FSU Museum of Fine Arts “Decolonizing Refinement” exhibition and catalogue in conversation with scholars from FAU and other Florida institutions."

The University Galleries have an active Museum Education Program offering interactive exhibition tours for schools and other groups by appointment. The program is a School District of Palm Beach County approved field experience provider. For more information contact Khaulah Naima Nuruddin, Museum Education Coordinator at knuruddin2015@fau.edu.

The University Galleries are open Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. The Schmidt Center Gallery is located in the Performing Arts building (building

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51), near the Living Room Theaters. Daytime visitors can obtain a temporary one-day parking pass online for \$5 at <http://parking.fau.edu>, or in person at the Information Booth at FAU's main entrance. Visitors can also use the parking meters, which cost \$2 per hour. Meters can be paid by downloading the Parkmobile app, or with credit card, debit card or exact paper currency (no change is given). Parking for the opening event is free in designated parking lots.

- FAU -

About Florida Atlantic University:

Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University, with an annual economic impact of \$6.3 billion, serves more than 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students at sites throughout its six-county service region in southeast Florida. FAU's world-class teaching and research faculty serves students through 10 colleges: the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, the College of Business, the College for Design and Social Inquiry, the College of Education, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, the Graduate College, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. FAU is ranked as a High Research Activity institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The University is placing special focus on the rapid development of critical areas that form the basis of its strategic plan: Healthy aging, biotech, coastal and marine issues, neuroscience, regenerative medicine, informatics, lifespan and the environment. These areas provide opportunities for faculty and students to build upon FAU's existing strengths in research and scholarship. For more information, visit www.fau.edu.

Decolonizing Refinement

Contemporary Pursuits in the Art of Edouard Duval-Carrié

University Galleries

Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton

Schmidt Center Gallery

November 9, 2018 - February 2, 2019

Edouard Duval-Carrié

Soucoyant #1

2017

mixed media

95 inches in diameter

Credit line: Courtesy of the Artist



Edouard Duval-Carrié

Soucoyant #3

2017

mixed media

95 inches in diameter

Credit line: Courtesy of the Artist



Edouard Duval-Carrié

Bossou Fleuri

2016

mixed media

45 x 41 x 29 inches

Credit line: Courtesy of the Artist



Edouard Duval-Carrié

Of Cotton Gunboats and Petticoats

2017

Mixed media on aluminum

72x60 inches

Credit line: Courtesy of the Artist



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Edouard Duval-Carrié *Sugarboat*

2017

mixed media

10 x 10 x 10 feet

Credit line: Courtesy of the Artist



Edouard Duval-Carrié *Le Rouyaume De Ce Monde*

2017

mixed media on aluminum in artist's frame

39 x 33 inches

Credit line: Courtesy of the Artist



Edouard Duval-Carrié *Ti Noel a Sans Souci*

2017

mixed media on aluminum in artist's frame

39 x 33 inches

Credit line: Courtesy of the Artist



Edouard Duval-Carrié *Memory Window #4*

2017

mixed media in artist's frame

58 x 58 inches

Credit line: Courtesy of the Artist



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Edouard Duval-Carrié *Memory Window #2*

2017

mixed media embedded in resin

58 x 58 inches

Credit line: Courtesy of the Artist



Wood Canoe from *Manatee Springs,*

Installation at Florida State University Museum of Fine Art

Credit line: Collection of *Florida Division of Historical Resources*



Lightening *Whelk Celt*

Installation at Florida State University Museum of Fine Art

Credit line: Collection of *Florida Division of Historical Resources*



Artist's Biography: Edouard Duval-Carrié (b. 1954, Port-au-Prince, Haiti)



Edouard Duval-Carrié, *Autoportrait*, 1994, 66 x 66 in.

Born and raised in Haiti, Edouard Duval-Carrié fled the regime of “Papa Doc” Duvalier as a teenager and subsequently resided in locales as diverse as Puerto Rico, Montreal, Paris, and Miami. Parallels thus emerge between the artist’s cosmopolitan lifestyle and his artistic sensitivity toward the multifaceted identities that form his native Haiti. Whether in sculpture, painting, or multimedia installation, Duval-Carrié’s work navigates the historically rich and culturally complex traditions that comprise a uniquely Caribbean perspective. At heart, Duval-Carrié is an educator: he challenges the viewer to make meaning of dense iconography derived from Caribbean history, politics, and religion. Duval-Carrié also re-appropriates history, inscribing photographs, documents, paintings, and ephemera onto his own work and thus problematizes official Francophonic narratives against lived realities. Although he claims his art to be a secular and intellectual pursuit, Duval-Carrié’s work often convenes with the spiritual via installations reminiscent of Vodou and Catholic altarpieces and reliquaries. In so doing, the artist explores the complex intermingling of ethnicities and socio-economic circumstances that staged Haiti’s contemporary, hybridic culture, and through which the Vodou pantheon continues to pulse. Recently, the conceptual layering of Duval-Carrié’s works has been further emphasized in his materials and through consistent attention to translucent and reflective mediums, such as glitter, glass, and resin. The introspective effects of these mediums transform his works into spatial interventions that implicate the viewer in their historicity. At their most fundamental, Duval-Carrié’s works ask the viewer to complicate the Western canon, to consider how Africa has shaped the Americas, and how the Caribbean has shaped the modern world.

Divine Revolution: The Art of Edouard Duval-Carrié

October 10, 2004 to January 30, 2005

"In a time when we need to be more than we really are, Duval-Carrié's bizarre images reference a tragic but familiar history of man combatting prejudice, greed, and unchecked power."

Juxtapose Magazine, March/April 2005

Experience the vitality and splendor of the work of Edouard Duval-Carrié. Born in Haiti, Duval-Carrié studied in Montreal and at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris before moving to his present home, Miami. *Divine Revolution*, his first West Coast solo museum exhibition, presents works in various media—including new sequined renditions of his paintings of the Haitian Revolution of 1804, in the tradition of Vodou flags (drapo); a series of vibrant paintings depicting the migration of the Vodou divinities from Haiti to the United States; and an elaborate altar, representing the Vodou spirits "reinstalled" in this country. His work demonstrates the profound influence of Vodou and the complex cultural and political history of Haiti.

Exhibition in Depth

January 1, 2004 marked the two-hundredth anniversary of Haitian independence wrought by the revolutionary leader Toussaint Louverture, and proclaimed by General Jean-Jacques Dessalines, the first President of the "Black Republic," as Haiti is often called. To celebrate the occasion, the government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Haiti's first democratically elected president, asked painter and sculptor Edouard Duval-Carrié to create an exhibition in the heart of Port-au-Prince, the nation's capital.

Born in Port-au-Prince in 1954 and trained at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris, Duval-Carrié makes his art in a studio in the "Little Haiti" district of Miami. He has lived in Puerto Rico and Canada and traveled to the Republic of Benin in West Africa, ancestral home of the divinities of Vodou (a religion and way of life in Haiti). His work in various media celebrates these divinities (lwa) and their role in the history of his country, especially the events of 1804. Though political upheaval interrupted the bicentennial exhibition in Port-au-Prince of Duval-Carrié's work, he has recreated much of it and added to it for

the UCLA Fowler Museum's exhibition '*Divine Revolution: The Art of Edouard Duval-Carrié*,' from Oct. 10, 2004 through Jan. 30, 2005.

His art reflects a mélange of African, European, and Caribbean influences, and encompasses multiple aspects of the Haitian experience, from religion to history to politics. Duval-Carrié's works emphasize migration while celebrating the Haitian spirit and the durability and modernity of the Haitian Vodou gods.

The first section of '*Divine Revolution*' is devoted to sequined and beaded flags based on the artist's paintings of revolutionary themes, in the tradition of the shimmering banners known as drapo that are presented at the beginning of Vodou ceremonies to salute the spirits. These new Duval-Carrié works — commissioned from the atelier of one of the best known of Haitian flag makers, Jean-Louis Edgar — duplicate the earlier set of flags that he had made at the request of the Haitian government for the bicentennial celebration in Port-au-Prince. Duval-Carrié's flags embody themes and an aesthetic similar to that of the ritual drapo, while speaking in a distinctly postmodern idiom.

The second and most extensive section of the exhibition features large-scale paintings by the artist, including three related works entitled Migration Trilogy — an exquisite group of paintings from Miami's Bass Museum of Art describing the mythological trajectories of the lwa — and several more recent paintings that address contemporary political events. Many of the paintings are mounted in the artist's intricately handmade frames, which contribute to the meaning system of the works through their rich and sometimes enigmatic iconography. The final section of the exhibition is dedicated to a new installation in the form of a luminous resin altar, and signals the rebirth of the lwa in their new diasporic settings.

Duval-Carrié's work has been included in numerous museum exhibitions, including solo exhibitions at the Phoenix Art Museum (2002-3) and the Miami Art Museum (2000). His work is represented in the collections of the Davenport Museum of Art, Davenport, Iowa; Miami Art Museum, Miami; Musée des Art Africains et Océaniens, Paris; and Musée de Panthéon National Haïtien, Port-au-Prince, among many others.

Exhibition Credits

Divine Revolution was guest curated by Donald J. Cosentino, a scholar of Haitian art and professor in UCLA's Department of World Arts and Cultures.

FSU's Museum of Fine Arts to host exhibition featuring renowned Haitian-American artist

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([HTTPS://NEWS.FSU.EDU/NEWS/ARTS-HUMANITIES/2018/01/23/FSUS-MUSEUM-FINE-ARTS-HOST-EXHIBITION-FEATURING-RENOWNED-HAITIAN-AMERICAN-ARTIST/](https://news.fsu.edu/news/arts-humanities/2018/01/23/fsus-museum-fine-arts-host-exhibition-featuring-renowned-haitian-american-artist/)) | 2:23 PM | SHARE:

A new exhibition at Florida State University's Museum of Fine Arts will explore historical themes such as regional plantation agriculture and slavery, while highlighting the work of renowned Haitian-born artist Edouard Duval-Carrié.

The exhibition, **"Decolonizing Refinement: Contemporary Pursuits in the Art of Edouard Duval-Carrié,"** (<http://mofa.fsu.edu/edc/>) curated in collaboration with the FSU Department of Art History, will open with a public reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16.

Duval-Carrié's work engages themes associated with Tallahassee and North Florida's history, including plantation agriculture, race, slavery and historical events and figures. The exhibition also includes plantation artifacts, loaned by the State of Florida Collections.

"A visitor is transported in the midst of vibrant light and color among Edouard Duval-Carrié's sculptures, paintings and prints," said Allys Palladino-Craig, director of the **Museum of Fine Arts** (<http://mofa.fsu.edu/>). "There are wonderfully strange figures and shapes. The artist's mythological characters have both literary precedents and tantalizing, mysterious significance."



► "Of Cotton, Gunboats and Petticoats," by Edouard Duval-Carrié, 2017, mixed media on aluminum artist's frame.



► "Memoire sans Histoire" by Edouard Duval-Carrié, 2009, mixed media on aluminum. (Collection of Serge and Johanna Coles.)

Duval-Carrié's art centers on the rich and culturally complex traditions of his Caribbean perspective. Born and raised in Port-au-Prince during the dictatorship of François Duvalier, Duval-Carrié and his family fled Haiti when he was a child. Educated in Montreal and Paris, he eventually set up a studio in Miami.

As part of the exhibition, the Winthrop-King Institute for Contemporary French and Francophone Studies and the Department of Art History will host a symposium on topics in African Diaspora and Caribbean Studies from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17, in the William Johnston Building, Room 2004.

Duval-Carrié will speak at the symposium alongside Florida State faculty Martin Munro and Vincent Joos and experts from the University of Miami, Brown University, Dickinson College and New York University.

FSU art history professors Paul Niell and Michael D. Carrasco and doctoral candidate Lesley Wolff co-curated the exhibition — in collaboration with Duval-Carrié — and are publishing an exhibition catalog that includes scholarly essays by participants in the Feb. 17 symposium.

“Through this collaboration between historians of art and a contemporary artist, we have produced a new type of conversation for our North Florida region that challenges us to reconsider our material history in ways that connect us to the historical experience of Haiti and other Caribbean nations and territories,” Niell said.

“Powerful exhibitions and vital research are a superlative reflection of the strengths of the university’s scholarship on art,” Palladino-Craig said. “It is a privilege for the museum to share in that enterprise.”

The exhibit runs through Sunday, April 1, at the Museum of Fine Arts, 530 W. Call St. The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The museum will be closed weekends during spring break. All exhibitions and receptions are free and open to the public.

Attendees may purchase the exhibition catalog through the Museum of Fine Arts or through the University Press of Florida.



► “Metamorphose #1” by Edouard Duval-Carrié, from *The Kingdom of This World* series, 2017, engraving on Plexiglas.