

ARNDT

ENRIQUE MARTINEZ CELAYA (born in Cuba, 1964; lives and works in Florida)

Enrique Martínez Celaya's paintings, sculptures, photographs and poetry betray a consistent interest in the gray area between experience and its representation, as well as the relationship between fragmentation and wholeness. He is a prodigiously independent-minded artist who cannot be categorized by a repeated use of a style, medium or format. He possesses a restless, multifarious intellect and moves easily from painting to sculpture to drawing to photography. The disparate aspects of Martínez Celaya's art are connected by an evolving vision shaped by circumstances, experiences, memories of his youth spent in Cuba, Spain and Puerto Rico, his education in physics and art, and influential figures such as his father, Marcos Martínez, and Bartoldo Mayol, the artist to whom he was apprenticed at age eleven and who instilled in Martínez Celaya a love for the process of making art. Martínez Celaya explores notions of symbolism, hermeticism, displacement, fragmentation, time, remembrance, mortality and identity, examines ideas attached to concepts of beauty, and questions the nature of the art objects he presents, as well as the possibilities of visual media and the limitations perhaps inadequacy of representation itself.

DAYBREAK Series

"The boy and the girl represented in several of the Daybreak works seem to insist they are part of a narrative, which they inhabit as ghosts in the present while simultaneously seeming to belong to an undefined but almost recognizable past. As those figures flicker in time, the landscapes in which they claim to stand suggest locations, however, before those locations can be recognized the work returns to paint; to a material Nothingness closer to ruins and garbage than to anything artistic, divine or intellectual. Then it all starts again, the appearance and disappearance, the temporal shifts, in eternal recurrence". Martínez Celaya

Born in Cuba and raised in Spain and Puerto Rico, Enrique Martínez Celaya lives and works in Florida. Martínez Celaya studied Applied Physics and electrical engineering and pursued a Ph.D. in Quantum Electronics. He attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine and received his M.F.A from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Martínez Celaya has created projects for art venues such as the Museum der bildenden Künste Leipzig and the Miami Art Museum as well as non-visual art institutions such as the Berliner Philharmonie and St. Mary's Church in Limerick, Ireland. In 1998 he founded the publishing house Whale & Star, which publishes books in the areas of art, poetry, art practice and critical theory. His artwork is in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the Museum der bildenden Künste Leipzig and others.

Latest exhibitions include Boca Raton Museum of Art, "An Unfinished Conversation: Collecting Enrique Martínez Celaya", (2009-2010), Miami Art Museum, Miami, Florida, "Nomad" (2007) as well as Museum der bildenden Künste Leipzig, Leipzig, "Schneebett" (2006).



The Gambler, 2010
bronze, 175,26 x 76,2 x 97,79 cm | 69 x 30 x 38.5 in
CELA0003



The Ice, 2008
oil and wax on canvas
116,84 x 127 cm | 46 x 50 in
CELA0001



The Unwilled, 2009
oil and wax on canvas
254 x 198,12 cm | 100 x 78 in
CELA0002