



ART

SANTA FE · 2015

INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY ART FAIR **JULY 9-12** SANTA FE CONVENTION CENTER

ALUMBRONES

Visitors to this summer's ART Santa Fe will enjoy an extraordinary experience as the fair will present the award-winning documentary film, *Alumbrones*, by filmmaker Bruce Donnelly and Lost Boy Productions and DKR Films. This film focuses on the life and work of a dozen contemporary Cuban artists, offering a rare view into the struggles, vibrancy, and turbulence of Cuba's history and culture. The timing of this presentation is particularly significant, as great changes are expected from the shifting relationship between Cuba and the United States.

Bruce Donnelly, a South African-born filmmaker who moved to New York in 2006 to pursue his film career, was fascinated with Cuba from a very early age. On a trip to Boston, Donnelly made a fortuitous trip into an art gallery featuring the work of Cuban artists. His interest was piqued and the idea for a documentary film about Cuba as seen through the lens of its contemporary artists began to develop. Donnelly immediately began to research and plan. About a year later he made his first trip to Cuba, meeting some of the artists with whom he had prior contact. A few months later Donnelly returned with a small crew and the filming of the documentary began.

Logistically, filming in Cuba presented numerous challenges. However, Donnelly and his crew found richness and complexity in the world they encountered that made overcoming the struggles well worth it. The title of the film itself reflects a distinctive attitude and humor. The term "*alumbrones*" has come to mean "unexpected, short-lived bursts of light," as opposed to *apagones*, which is a word for blackouts. Blackouts were so frequent in Cuba, particularly during the "Special Period" following the collapse of the Soviet Union, that they were the norm and *alumbrones*, brief periods of electricity, were the exception.

Although their art is quite diverse and their ages range from the late teens to mid-60s, something seems to unify the twelve artists interviewed in *Alumbrones*: Pedro Pablo Oliva, Sandra Dooley, Luis Rodriguez NOA, Eduardo Guerra, Orestes Gaulhiac, Isolina Limonta, Yamile Pardo, Edel Bordón, Darian Rodriguez Medevos, Luis Toledo del Rio, Luis Miguel Perez Ilanez, and Ramon Rodriguez Moya. Through the words and images of these artists, *Alumbrones* illuminates the spirit of Cuba, its history, its challenges, and unique perspective.

The presentation of *Alumbrones* is illustrative of the *international* art experience that has characterized ART Santa Fe for the past 15 years. Fair-goers will be pleased to discover the work of several of the artists featured in the film at ART Santa Fe at the booth of Conde Contemporary of Miami. *Alumbrones* will be on view from 10 - 13 July. To learn more visit www.alumbrones.com or contact ART Santa Fe.

Image detail from the film *Alumbrones*

email inquiries@artsantafe.com | web www.artsantafe.com | tel 505.988.8883

CELEBRATING FIFTEEN YEARS