

# ART

SANTA FE · 2015

INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY ART FAIR

JULY 9-12 SANTA FE CONVENTION CENTER



## LOS PIONEROS

Six child-sized figures with the wizened, wrinkled faces of the elderly are dressed in children's school uniforms of red and white, with blue kerchiefs tied around their necks. At the verbal cue – "Pioneros por el comunismo" (pioneers for communism) – the child figures raise their hands to their foreheads in salute and respond, "Seremos como el Che" (We will be like Che). *Los Pioneros*, a work of kinetic sculpture by artist Aurora Molina, is the provocative installation that gallery Conde Contemporary of Miami brings to ART Santa Fe this summer.

*Los Pioneros* evokes school children in communist Cuba – every morning the children, known as *pioneros*, line up to pledge themselves as pioneers for communism who would grow up in the image of Ernesto "Che" Guevara. The child-like size of the pieces, which are mechanized, adds to the sense of unease surrounding the piece. A light-sensitive mechanism triggers the call and response phrases. Molina chose to age the faces of the children to represent the age that the original *pioneros* would now be. As a child in Cuba, Molina herself was one of these *pioneros* dressed in uniform. Following her father's emigration from Cuba she and her family became targets of retribution, including a humiliating moment for Molina when she was stripped of her blue kerchief in front of the rest of her class during this morning school ritual. Both a personal and a larger historical story come vividly to life in *Los Pioneros*.

Along with this installation by Molina, who grew up in La Habana and emigrated to the United States at age 16, Conde Contemporary brings new and exciting work of several other contemporary Cuban artists to ART Santa Fe. Andres Conde, who came to Miami via Spain in 1983, will exhibit selections from his ongoing series, *SOCIAL* — based on the iconic Cuban magazine that ran from 1916 to 1938. For the series Conde is creating 248 imagined magazine covers for the years between 1938 and the beginning of the revolution in 1959. Conde's *SOCIAL* was recently featured in *The Wall Street Journal*.

Conde Contemporary will also bring the work of three young Cuban artists, Darian Rodriguez Mederos, Raiman Rodriguez Moya, and Luis Enrique Toledo del Rio. These three boys grew up together in Santa Clara, Cuba where they spent much time in the studio of Toldeo del Rio's father, artist Luis Enrique. All three are featured in a new documentary film, *Alumbrones*, which will be shown at ART Santa Fe. The work of Toledo del Rio, who lives and works in Santa Clara, is magical realist — evoking dreamscapes through meticulous use of color and shadow. Recently relocated to Miami, Mederos focuses on realist and hyperrealist portraiture, particularly focused on the expression of his subjects' eyes. Moya, currently living in Spain, creates portraits of deep emotion, interpreting his subject's inner life sensitively onto the canvas.

*Los Pioneros*, as well as select works from these artists, will be on view from 10 – 13 July as part of the ART Santa Fe fair. To learn more, visit <http://www.artsantafe.com> or contact ART Santa Fe on 505 988 8883.

Image from *Los Pioneros* by Aurora Molina, Conde Contemporary, Florida

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