



Two Citizens of Utopia

Ibrahim Miranda and Douglas Pérez

The 8th Floor, 17 West 17th St. New York, New York

July – October 2012; Check www.the8thfloor.org for details

July 11th - July 31st Open weekdays 12-5 pm

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE New York, NY June 18th, 2012 – The 8th Floor is pleased to present *Two Citizens of Utopia*, featuring both works on canvas as well as over 50 works on paper by Cuban artists Ibrahim Miranda and Douglas Pérez.

The connection between Douglas Pérez and Ibrahim Miranda runs deeper than their mutual heritage. With a common aerial vantage point seen throughout the “mapas” of Ibrahim Miranda and the dystopian landscapes of Douglas Pérez, both artists hone in on Cuba’s geography subverting their native terrain to convey their personal anxieties regarding the island’s past, present, and future.

Miranda’s works attempt a revisionist historical account of the island. He utilizes maps as the ground for his own personal excavation of Cuba’s past. Each map contains familiar elements including African pottery, tropical flora and fauna, and Greek sculpture. Pérez’s large canvases attempt to discern the future of the island. Through their unique perspective of the island, both Miranda and Pérez use a novel historical lens that reclaims authority over their identities through the landscape of their homeland.

Born in Villa Clara, Cuba, Douglas Pérez currently lives and works in Havana. His work has been exhibited extensively in both museums and galleries including the Mattress Factory and the National Gallery of Johannesburg. Pérez is a graduate of the Higher Institute for the Arts in Havana, Cuba. His work is held globally in numerous public and private collections.

Ibrahim Miranda was born in Pinar del Rio, Cuba and educated at both the National School of Fine Art in Havana and the Superior Institute of Art. He has been an artist in Residence at the Brandywine Graphics Workshop in Philadelphia, PA as well as at the Graphic Studio at the University of South Florida, Tampa. An awarded printmaker, Miranda’s work is held in numerous global collections including the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Puerto Rican Cultural Institute.

An essay by Orlando Hernández Pascual, translated by Ted Henken Ph.D, will accompany the exhibition. For more information and image requests, please contact Anna Gonick, (646) 738-3988 or by email at anna@the8thfloor.org. Special thanks to the artists and lenders including The Farber Collection, Alberto Magnan and Dara Metz, Private Collection, and the Shelley and Donald Rubin Private Collection.