

STEVE TURNER

PRESS RELEASE



Carlos Martiel: *Body of Work*

February 10–March 9, 2024

Steve Turner is pleased to present *Body of Work*, a solo exhibition by Cuban-born and New York-based artist Carlos Martiel who for nearly two decades has used his body to critique political issues that relate to censorship, oppression and migration.

Body of Work features new works by the artist that encompass performance, photography, sculpture, drawing, installation and jewelry. In *Visionario*, a powerful photographic self-portrait, Martiel gazes intensely at the viewer, with diamonds embedded in the reflection in his eyes. *Insignia VI* is a large-scale American flag which is stained with the blood of a Native American.

In *Visionario*, Martiel relies on the mantra “my gender is black” to subvert the common assumptions about power in portraiture. In *Insignia VI*, he addresses the function of representation in the context of conquest, colonialism, slavery and capitalism. As a whole, *Body Of Work* is focused on the ongoing struggles faced by people of African and Native descent in the Americas.

Body Of Work is open to the public beginning Wednesday, February 14, 2024. On March 1, 2024 at 6 PM, Martiel will introduce *Vaciamiento*, a new performance that will also feature the participation of the artist’s parents, something unprecedented in his performance practice.

Carlos Martiel (1989, Havana). Lives and works in NYC. He graduated in 2009 from the National Academy of

Fine Arts “San Alejandro,” in Havana. Between 2008-2010, he studied in the Cátedra Arte de Conducta, directed by Tania Bruguera. Martiel’s works have been included in 57th Venice Biennale, Italy. He has had performances at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, The Solomon R Guggenheim Museum, The Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art and El Museo del Barrio in NYC, The Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam and The Museum of Fine Arts Houston (MFAH). He has received several awards, including the Maestro Doble Latinx Art Prize which includes a solo exhibition at El Museo del Barrio, New York which will open on May 1, 2024.

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Carlos Martiel

Vaciamiento, 2024

Metal

78 ³/₄ x 118 ¹/₈ inches (200 x 300 cm)

c.martiel013533



Carlos Martiel

Insignia VI, 2024

Satin and blood of a Native American person

78 ³/₄ x 51 ¹/₈ inches (200 x 130 cm)

c.martiel013511



Carlos Martiel

Visionario, 2024

Photo print on matte cotton paper, two diamonds of 0.5 carats and white gold

51 ¹/₈ x 39 ³/₄ inches (130 x 101 cm)

c.martiel013513



Carlos Martiel

Vaciamiento, 2024

Ink on paper

10 ³/₄ x 8 ¹/₂ inches (27.3 x 21.6 cm)

c.martiel013518