

BIOGRAPHY RESEARCH AND WRITING PROJECT

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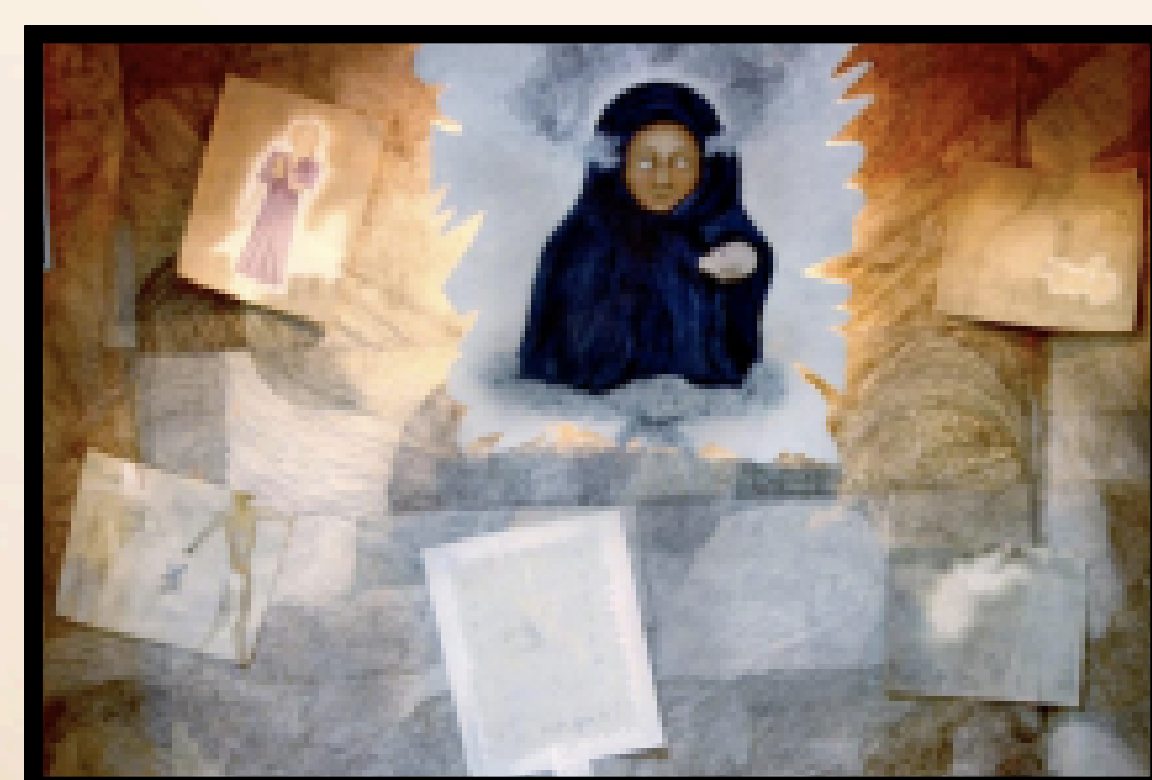
FSU
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
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Introduction

- This research dives into the work of Grupo Puré, a Cuban artistic collective that emerged during the mid-1980s.
- Our goal is to bring more attention to these artists, whose work serves as a raw reflection of the social and ideological friction of the time.
- There is currently a limited amount of available information on the group, as their active years predated the digital age and the existence of social media, making archival recovery essential.
- By looking at who the members of Grupo Puré were and the environment they lived in, we explore how the decade's unique pressures shaped their shared identity.
- Ultimately, this project highlights the importance of seeing art not just as an aesthetic choice, but as a necessary response to the complex social conditions of 1980s Havana.



Figure 1: Expo Pure' 1987 Parallel Exhibition to II Biennial of Havana, Higher Institute of Art, Havana, Cuba



Figures 2 and 3: Examples of the raw, textural aesthetic used by the group to critique the ideological tensions of the mid-1980s.



Methods

- 1 The methodology of this project is based on biographical research and historical contextualization, including sourcing data from museum archives and exhibition records.
- 2 Our primary focus is to collect information of the members of Grupo Puré, whose artistic career is analyzed through scholarly sources and contextual readings that situate their work within the broader cultural climate of 1980s Cuba.
- 3 The research also involves collaboration with Kyleelise Holmes Thomas, FSU graduate research assistant, the project curator, and UROP mentor to ensure accuracy and clarity, as well as coordination with a fellow student researcher.
- 4 Our final method is to conduct live interviews post-biography-draft writing with artists Ana Albertina Delgado and Jose Adriano Buergo, with subsequent correspondence to verify the biographical and artistic practices narratives.



Figure 4: Hello, Bye 1986 (group piece) Pure' exhibits Gallery L, Sala Talía, Havana, Cuba



Figure 5: Members of Grupo Puré during a collaborative performance/exhibition, illustrating the collective's shared identity.

Results

- Professionally written biographies of Ana Albertina Delgado and Jose Adriano Buergo that document their artistic contributions to Grupo Puré and explore their influence on Cuban art.
- The results developing formal bilingual (Spanish/English) biographies for publication, integrating Grupo Puré and each of its founding members into the global canon of contemporary Latin American art history.

Conclusions

- These findings provide readers with deeper insight into how personal experience, political pressure, and social constraints informed the artistic production of the 1980s Cuban collective Grupo Puré.
- This research contributes to the field of Cuban art history by bringing attention to a lesser-studied collective and demonstrating how art functioned as a means of cultural reflection, resilience, and critique during a period of significant historical tension.

Future Directions

- The project is still in progress and will continue throughout the remainder of the semester.
- Initiate contact with the remaining members of Grupo Puré—Ciro Quintana, Ermí Taño, and Lázaro Saavedra—to conduct the primary research and interview process for their individual biographies.
- Once completed, the biographies will be published in the "Grupo Puré: Cuban art In and Outside Cuba 1986-2026" exhibition catalog, and excerpted for inclusion in the exhibition..



Figures 6 and 7: Grupo Puré in the memory: "Puré Expone", Gallery L (January, 1986)



Resources & Acknowledgements

Special thanks to our mentor, Kyleelise Holmes Thomas, for her invaluable guidance and dedicated support throughout this process. Our gratitude to the artists of Grupo Puré, particularly Jose Adriano Buergo and Ana Albertina Delgado, whose generosity and insights during our interviews were essential in reconstructing the collective's history. Finally, thanks to our family for their unwavering support; their encouragement and help in reconnecting with our Cuban heritage made this personal and academic journey possible.