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News

9 Highlights From the Meca Art Fair in San Juan



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The third edition of MECA (short for Mercado Caribeño), held November 21-24, drew crowds to Antiguo Arsenal de la Marina Española in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico. An international exhibitor list—featuring galleries from Detroit, Mexico City, Tokyo, and New York, in addition to the Caribbean—marked the fair’s growing global profile and proved the island’s ongoing restoration efforts after Hurricane Maria’s devastating impact on tourism and local businesses in September 2017.

MECA’s second iteration in 2018, which opened just over a year after Maria, raised hopes for a steady art market in the Caribbean. This year, the region’s largest art fair presented an expanded and more inclusive program, including the inaugural Mecansimos section dedicated to emerging artists from the Americas who started their careers after 2010. Danny Baez, the fair’s co-founder and galleries and external affairs director, was satisfied after a successful edition, which drew larger crowds than previous years. He told Interior Design that MECA will continue to be an influential force in promotion of contemporary art in the Caribbean. Here are nine highlights from the fair.

Rafael Delacruz at Reyes | Finn



Rafael Delacruz’s psychedelic paintings of individuals situated in urban landscapes tap into the times’ increasingly rapid order with humor and nuance. The 30-year-old Brooklyn painter, who holds a BFA in Film Theory from San Francisco State University, flexes his narrative-building muscles on canvas to chronicle everyday people’s interactions with urban architecture and objects—figures blend into street corners or objects become body parts. In *Handle with Care* (2019), an otherwise naked

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Gallery Hours
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