Contemporary Diplomacy and the Arts

Forging and Sustaining Impactful Institutional Partnerships between the United States and Cuba

Nestor Siré, Visual Artist nsnestorramon@gmail.com

in conversation with

Dr. Royce W. Smith, Dean, College of Arts & Architecture, Montana State University - Bozeman royce.smith@montana.edu

Current Situation for US Travelers and Institutions

- Travel for purposes of tourism is prohibited, "people-to-people" category of general license for travel to Cuba has been eliminated
- Travel continues to be permitted for 12 distinct categories of activities :
 - 1. Family visits
 - 2. Official business of the U.S. government, foreign governments and certain intergovernmental organizations
 - 3. Journalistic activity
 - 4. Professional research and professional meetings
 - 5. Educational activities
 - 6. Religious activities
 - 7. Public performances, clinics, workshops, athletic and other competitions, and exhibitions
 - 8. Support for the Cuban people
 - 9. Humanitarian projects
 - 10. Activities of private foundations or research or educational institutes
 - 11. Exportation, importation, or transmission of information or information materials
 - 12. Certain authorized export transactions
- Commercial airline service continues (Havana, Varadero, Cienfuegos, Camaguey, Santiago de Cuba, Holguín); cruise ship service remains suspended
- Embassy of United States Embassy remains closed for visa processing and services; it still can be approached by US citizens in need of assistance

31 CFR § 515.565: Educational activities in Cuba

- Accredited US undergraduate- and graduate-degree-granting institutions, their students and their FULL-TIME employees may travel to Cuba for the purposes of research and instruction
- Non-US employee instruction requires a minimum of 10 weeks in Cuba; shorter periods of time are allowed when accompanied by a full-time academic employee of an accredited US institution
- Teaching at a Cuban institution must be no shorter than 10 weeks and requires official letter of invitation from the Cuban partner institution
- Research-only visits permitted as long as course of research has been approved by the Cuban institution: academic visa required
- Cuban scholars permitted to visit US institutions and universities by letter of invitation explicitly stating that all accommodation, travel and living expenses will be paid for the scholar using non-state funds

Visa Entry into Cuba

- Tourist visa
 - Most common and readily available at boarding gates for commercial flights
 - Range in price from \$25 \$75 per passenger
 - Valid for 30 days
 - May be extended for an additional 30 days with Cuban Immigration Office: Calle 17, No. 203 between J and K, Vedado
- Religious activities visa
 - Needed for any performance or activity occurring in a religious institution or church
 - Strictly regulated and all activity must be characterized as "religious" in nature
 - Requires support from a Cuban partner (Catholic Diocese, choir director, priest)
 - Must be paid in advance: 80 CUC (\$90) per person, entry within 30 days of issue
- Cultural visa
 - May be used in conjunction with partner institutions, such as art schools, museums, galleries, theaters, universities, events (Bienal de la Habana, Latin American Film Festival, Jazz Festival, ISA Student Arts Festival)
 - Cuban partners apply for this visa on your behalf
 - Must be paid in advance: 80 100 CÚC (\$90 \$110)
- Academic visa
 - Must be requested at least 6 months prior to desired travel and solicited by a Cuban institution
 - Arts-related visas easier to obtain than STEM-related visas
 - Cost: 80 CUC (\$90) for 30-day periods with extensions possible

- A. Submit the project at least three months in advance.
- B. Projects must be submitted to related institutions.
- C. The project must explain the benefits that this would imply for the institution and the country in cultural terms.
- D. Memoranda of understanding facilitate the acceptance of proposals and associated travel requirements.

Information for the development of projects

- A. The personal data of the person in charge of the project (full name; address; telephone and email).
- B. Conceptual abstract, images and graphic information corresponding to the type of project.
- C. It must show all the institutions involved in the development and financing of the project.
- D. Each project must present background information and previous presentations if it were the case.
- E. List of people involved and photocopy of passports of all who will travel as part of the project for the Cultural Visa application process.
- F. CV in the case of artists, curators and other professionals.
- G. Implementation schedule with the full itinerary including dates of flights and travel within Cuba if applicable. (This is critical for US and Cuban requirements).

Cuban Cultural Institutions

Contacts for the presentation of cultural projects.





ISA, UNIVERSIDAD DE LAS ARTES

- Visual arts (sculpture, painting, printmaking, ceramics, photography, time-based media)
- Music (vocal, instrumental, music technology)
- Dance (ballet, modern, experimental)
- Theater (acting, direction, set design)

Contactos: 7 208 0704 | 7 208 0017

Correo: contacto@isa.cult.cu | vrri@isa.cult.cu

Dirección: 120 No. 904 e/ 9na y 23, Playa, La Habana. Cuba.



de Diseño

ISDI, INSTITUTO SUPERIOR DE DISEÑO INDUSTRIAL

- Graphic design

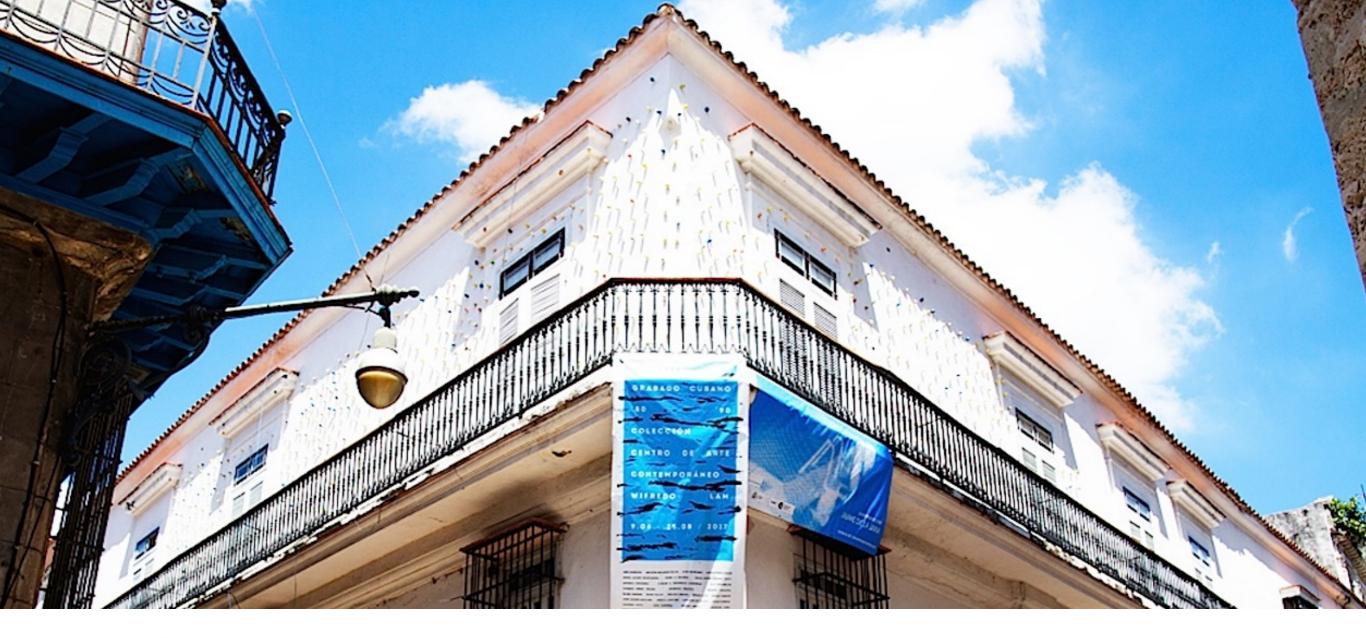
- Industrial design

Contactos: 7 874 5148

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Correo: <u>reyalex@isdi.co.cu</u>

Dirección: Belascoain No. 710 e/ Estrella y Maloja, Centro Habana. Cuba.





WIFREDO LAM CENTRO DE ARTE CONTEMPORÁNEO

- Contemporary art exhibitions

- Museum studies - Bienal de la Habana

Contactos: 7 864 6282 | 7 864 6283

Correo: cacwifredolam@gmail.com

Dirección: San Ignacio 22 Esq Empedrado, Plaza de la Catedral, Habana Vieja. Cuba.





FOTOTECA DE CUBA

Contemporary photographyNoviembre Fotográfico (photography biennial)

Contactos: 7 801 81 41 | 7 801 8530

Correo: fototeca.cult.cu

Dirección: Mercaderes No. 307 e/ Muralla y Teniente Rey, Habana Vieja. Cuba.





CDAV, CENTRO DE DESARROLLO DE ARTES VISUALES

- Workshops

- Master classes

- Thesis presentations and exhibitions

- Lectures

Contactos: 7 801 8111 | 7 801 8279

Correo: avisual@cubarte.cult.cu

Dirección: San Ignacio no. 352, esq. a Teniente Rey Plaza Vieja, Habana Vieja.



TALLER EXPERIMENTAL DE GRÁFICA

- Contemporary printmaking
- Bookmaking
- Exhibition opportunities
- Workshops

Correo: tgrafica@cubarte.cult.cu

Dirección: Callejón del Chorro, Habana Vieja, La Habana. Cuba.





INSTITUTO DE INVESTIGACIÓN CULTURAL JUAN MARINELLO

- Cultural studies

- Anthropology and sociology

Contactos: 7 861 9479

Correo: director@icic.cult.cu

Dirección: Boyeros No. 63 e/ Bruzón y Lugareño, Plaza de la Revolución.

Tips for your trip to Cuba:

- **A. Bring everything you will need** in terms of materials for the completion of the project. Ensure this list is given to your partner institution and that you travel with a signed letter from them as you pass through Cuban customs.
- B. It is better to travel with EUROS or CANADIAN DOLLARS in cash, as the exchange is much better. US dollars are levied a penalty when exchanged for Cuban currency.
- C. You can book by **AirBnB** from US with a credit card to prepay.
- D. To have an experience in Cuban private apartments in a safe Havana neighborhood for up to 25 individuals, you may contact Regina Perez Perez at <u>loretab@infomed.sld.cu</u> or by phone +53 78794057. Double-occupancy rooms cost \$35-60 per night.

Download these offline applications before your trip:



AlaMesa: Restaurant guides with contact information and menus.



Maps.me: Map with GPS running offline.



Zapya: It is the application used by all Cubans to share digital files without an internet connection. Once in Cuba you can purchase a prepaid SIM in ETECSA agency and apply to mobile data Internet on your phone (approximately \$40):





DITEL: Developed in Cuba to manage purchasing data packets connected to Cuban agency.



VPN: To download or access any of the international services that can be blocked in Cuba.



Bajanda: Developed in Cuba for taxis. It is a kind of UBER with the difference that it is paid in cash.

ENTRE, DENTRO, FUERA _ BETWEEN, INSIDE, OUTSIDE

Curated by Royce W. Smith and Dannys Montes de Oca in the Bienal de La Habana, 2015



Nestor Siré_Statement

I believe in the **necessity of art**. I consider the practice of art within specific contexts, as well as its capacity for the **re-interpretation of social and cultural phenomena**.

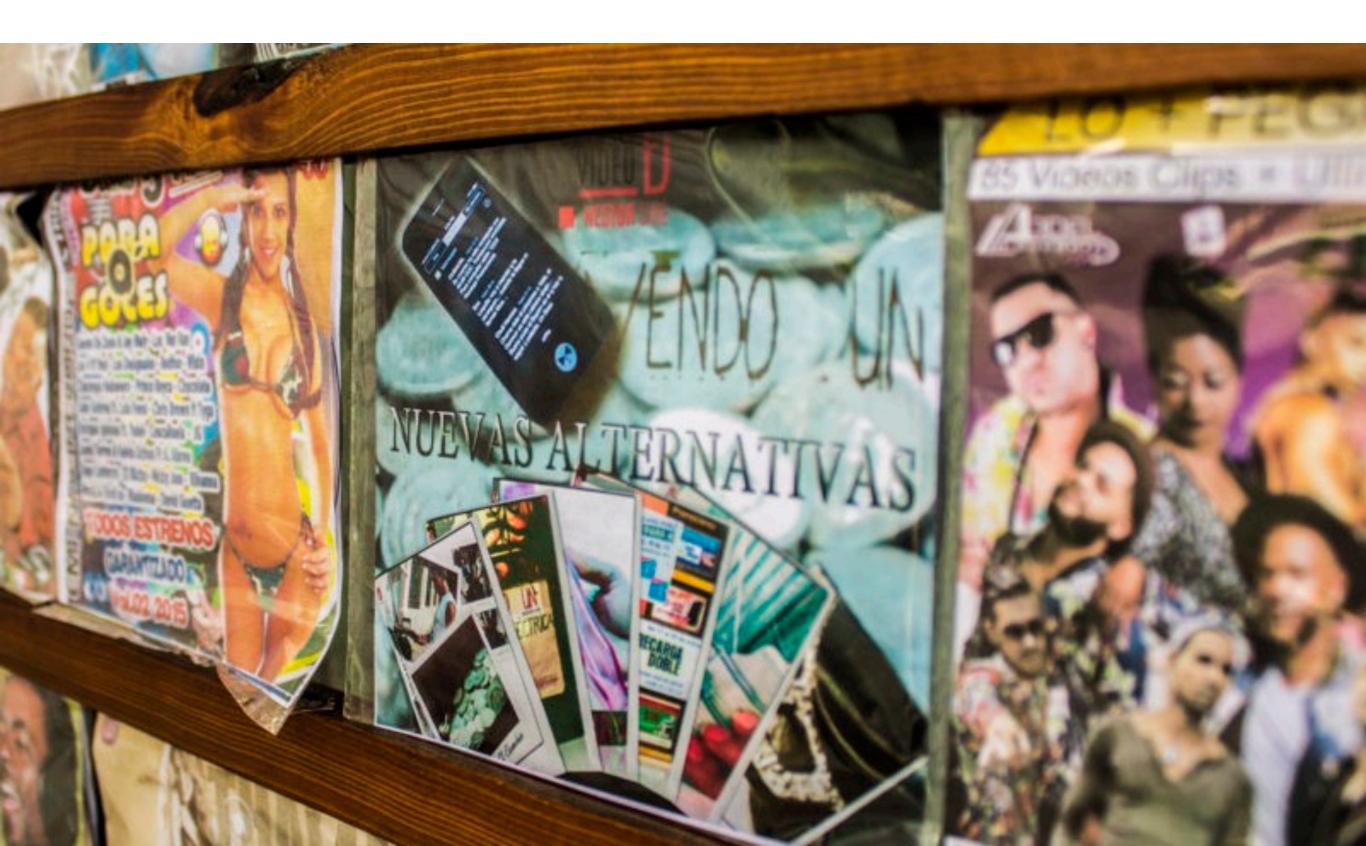
I understand the social, economic and aesthetic limitations of thinking of **art as useful**, and I welcome this challenge.

Over the years, my interest has focused on:

- Alternative ways of disseminating information
- Social activities and exchanges resulting from legal loopholes and socioeconomic needs
- Cultural hybridities and their impacts on identity and placemaking

Video Combos

Public intervention in 15 place and 4 digital videos combos. Bienal de La Habana, 2015





Video Combos

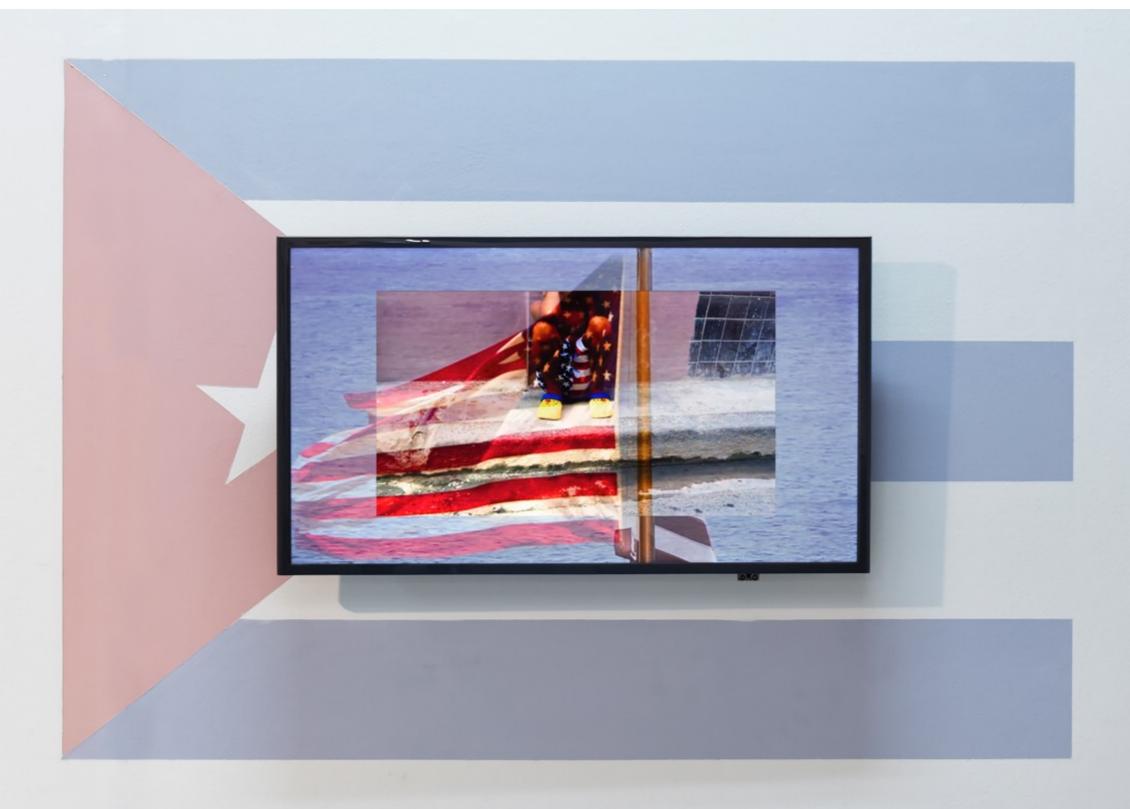
TA' ANGARYRYI ATY, 1ra Bienal de Asunción, 2015. Curated by Royce W. Smith.





Three and One Flags

Bienal de Curitiba, 2017, "Because the World Must Never Lose its Affections," Curated by Royce W. Smith





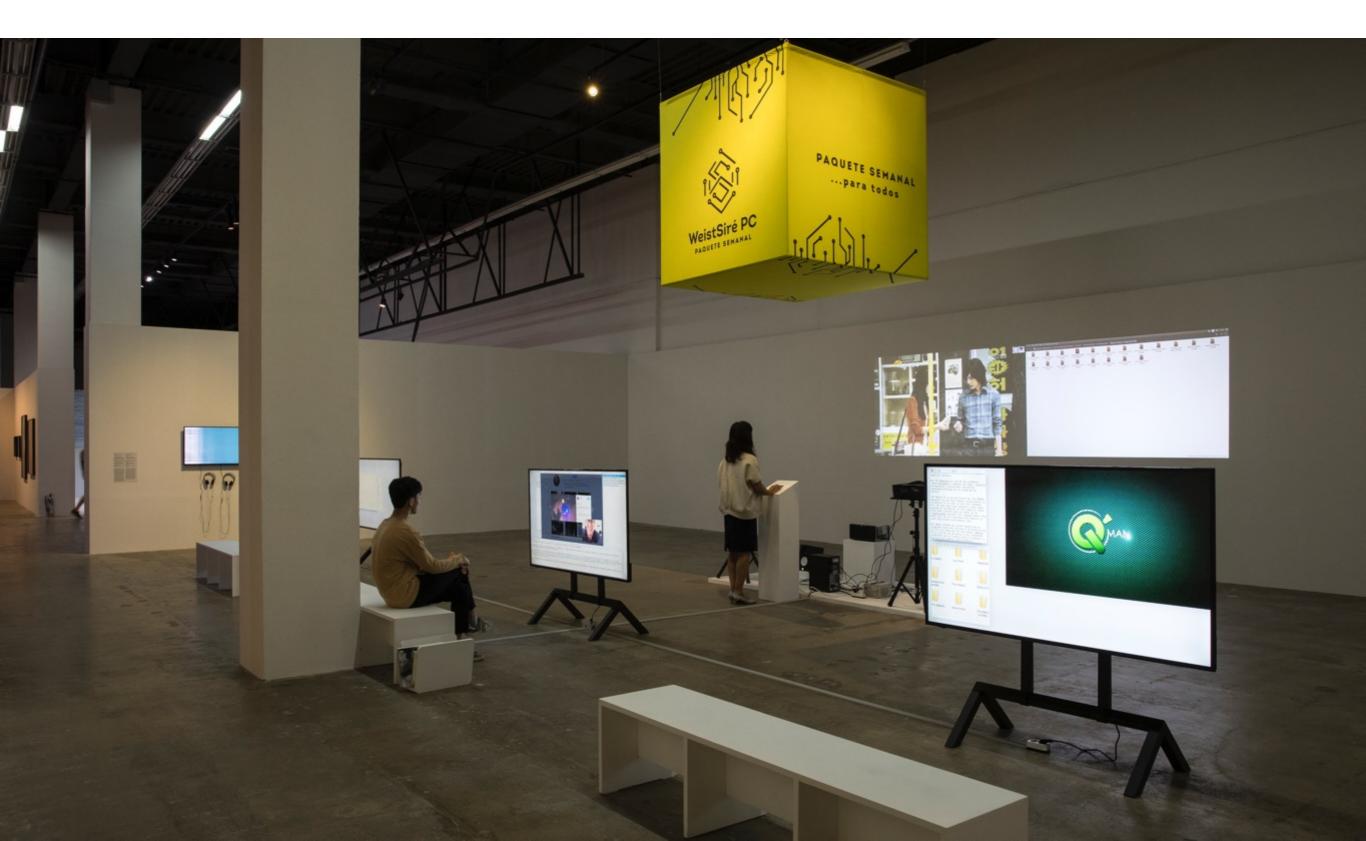
17.(SEPT) [By WeistSiréPC]™

In collaboration with Julia Weist, Queens Museum, New York. 2017



WeistSiréPC

In collaboration with Julia Weist, 12th Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, South Korea. 2018



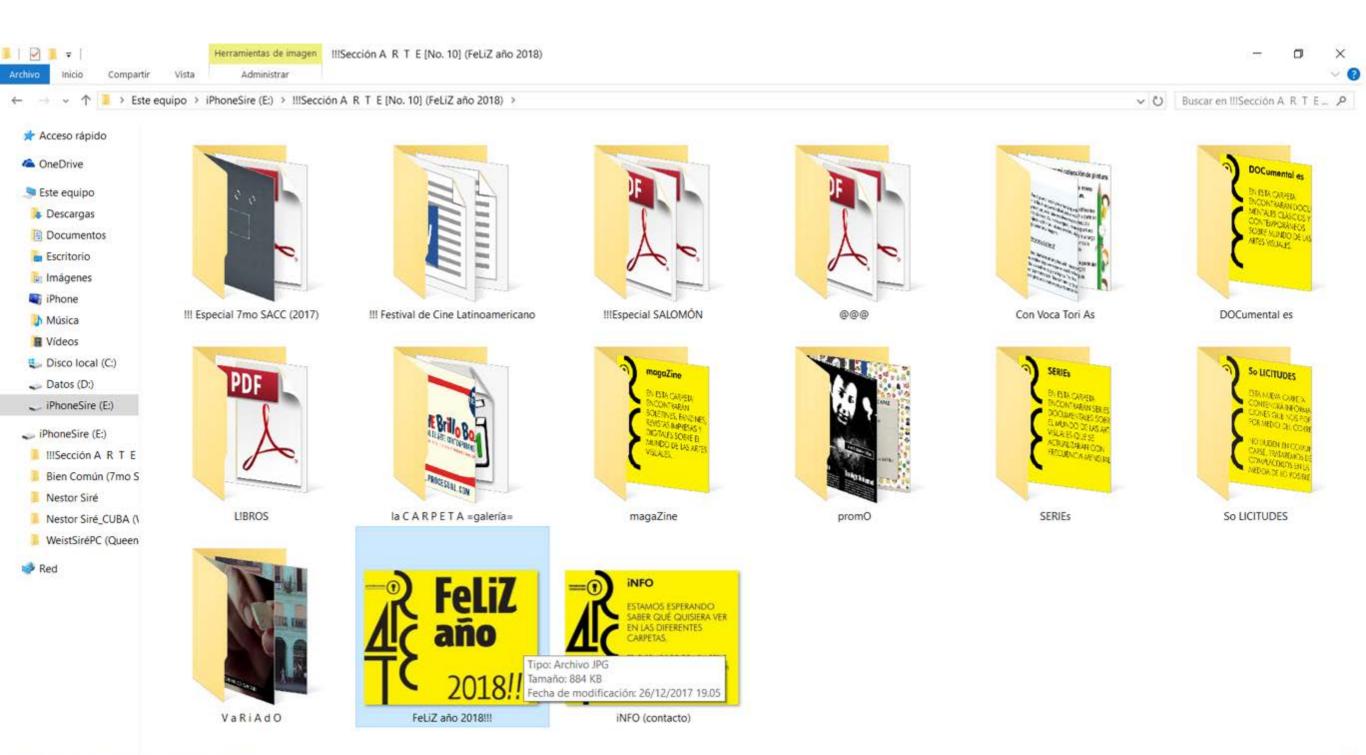
ARCA [Paquete Semanal_archive]

In collaboration with Julia Weist, Triple Canopy, NYC. 2018



!!!A R T Section

In collaboration with Julia Weist, Triple Canopy, NYC. 2018





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