

NEWS RELEASE

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N.C. Museum of Art Presents First Major Museum Exhibition of Work by Anthony Goicolea

*Alter Ego features 40 works across a variety of media
that represent the scope of the contemporary artist's career*

RALEIGH, N.C. — The North Carolina Museum of Art presents the first major solo museum exhibition of works by contemporary American artist Anthony Goicolea. Beginning Sunday, April 17, visitors can experience more than 40 works of art, including photographs, drawings, videos, and mixed-media installations from throughout the artist's career in *Alter Ego: A Decade of Work by Anthony Goicolea*.



Anthony Goicolea, *Pool Pushers*, 2001,
Collection of Dr. Carlos Garcia-Velez, © 2001
Anthony Goicolea

Goicolea, a first-generation Cuban American, is well known for his self-portraits in which he explores issues of identity and adolescence through digitally manipulated photographs. In this early series of work, Goicolea, often disguised by costumes and makeup, presents himself in a variety of provocative and enigmatic narrative settings.

In *Alter Ego*, these early works will be shown alongside Goicolea's newer works, including drawings, videos, and installations.

"Over the past decade, Anthony Goicolea has created a significant and highly successful body of work," said Linda Dougherty, the Museum's curator of contemporary art. "His ability to move with ease from traditional media, such as painting and drawing, to video and digitally manipulated photography has put him at the forefront of contemporary art."

Goicolea often draws upon current events, religion, art history, myths, fairy tales, and dreams for inspiration. His complex treatment of these themes along with the issues of cultural tradition, alienation, and desolation seduces viewers while remaining visually arresting.

Goicolea's photographs and videos depict a fantastic world created by the artist. His large-scale installations incorporate video, sculpture, painting, and drawing to create complex environments and mysterious scenes that are open to interpretation.

The exhibition also presents many of Goicolea's masterful drawings. These layered works on paper and Mylar are surreal and dreamlike, depicting otherworldly characters in strange locales. They combine collage, gold leaf, and acrylic paint with intricately detailed drawings that expand the narratives found in his photographs and videos.

In *Almost Safe*, a series of large-scale black-and-white photographs, Goicolea melds contemporary issues of environmental destruction and globalization with film noir and landscape painting to produce images of wastelands that are simultaneously seductive and unsettling.

This is followed by two series that explore Goicolea's identification as a first-generation Cuban American. In *Related*, he examines issues of displacement, dislocation, and identity through portraits of his extended family based on archival photographs. Inspired by a trip to Cuba, he then created *Once Removed*, composing a fictionalized visual narrative of his familial history. These multimedia works of art depict family events—dinners and reunions peopled by idealized versions of his relatives—that never happened.

In his most recent work, Goicolea continues to alternate between the portrait and the landscape with images of abandoned places and portraits of young children. Six photographs from Goicolea's most recent series, *DecemberMay*, are included in the exhibition, revealing a departure from his previous work and a fascination with the seasonal isolation of winter.

His technical mastery can be seen in recent photographic composites such as *Siamese Twins*, in which an image of two rusty, abandoned cars has been seamlessly merged with a cornucopia of fresh fruits that effortlessly spill into the surrounding landscape.

"The traditional idea that a photograph represents the truth is completely upended in Goicolea's work," said Dougherty.

The exhibition features three of Goicolea's works from the NCMA's collection and represents the Museum's ongoing effort to present significant solo exhibitions of contemporary artists represented in the permanent collection.



Anthony Goicolea, *Siamese Twins*, 2010, Courtesy of the artist, © 2010 Anthony Goicolea

Alter Ego is organized by the North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, and the Telfair Museums, Savannah, in collaboration with 21c Museum, Louisville. In Raleigh the exhibition is presented by the North Carolina Museum of Art Contemporaries, with additional support provided by Paul E. Coggins, Dr. W. Kent Davis, Dr. Carlos Garcia-Velez, R. Glen Medders, Michael Rubel and Kristin Rey, Hedy Fischer and Randy Shull, and Allen G. Thomas Jr. This exhibition is also made possible, in part, by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources; the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation, Inc.; and the William R. Kenan Jr. Endowment for Educational Exhibitions.

Visitor Information

Dates

April 17–July 24, 2011

Location

Alter Ego will be located in East Building.

Hours

Alter Ego will be open during regular Museum hours:

Tuesday–Thursday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Friday 10 a.m.–9 p.m.

Saturday–Sunday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Admission

The exhibition is free to the public.

Resources

Art labels and in-depth commentary accompany the exhibition. A fully illustrated catalogue was produced for the exhibition and is available from the Museum Store for \$24.95.

Additional information about the exhibition is also available online at www.ncartmuseum.org/exhibitions/anthony_goicolea.

Exhibition-Related Events

Meet the Artist: Anthony Goicolea

Friday, April 15, 6:30 p.m.

East Building

\$7 Contemporaries; \$10 Members; \$15 Nonmembers

New York-based multimedia artist Anthony Goicolea discusses his approach in creating elaborately crafted images that explore one's identity and sense of place. A reception featuring light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar follows the artist's talk.

For more information or reservations, call (919) 664-6754 or register online at www.ncartmuseum.org/ersvp. Space is limited; advance registration is strongly suggested.

Exhibition Gallery Talks for *Alter Ego: A Decade of Work by Anthony Goicolea*

Fridays, April 29 and May 13; Saturday, April 30

2:30 p.m.

East Building

A Museum docent leads a free 30-minute tour of *Alter Ego*. Reservations required; call (919) 664-6785.

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The North Carolina Museum of Art's permanent collection spans more than 5,000 years, from ancient Egypt to the present, making the institution one of the premier art museums in the Southeast. The Museum's collection provides educational, aesthetic, intellectual, and cultural experiences for the citizens of North Carolina and beyond. The 164-acre Museum Park showcases the connection between art and nature through site-specific works of environmental art. The Museum offers changing national touring exhibitions, classes, lectures, family activities, films, and concerts.

The Museum recently opened its new gallery building, home to the permanent collection. The North Carolina Museum of Art, Lawrence J. Wheeler, director, is located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh. It is the art museum of the State of North Carolina, Beverly Eaves Perdue, governor, and an agency of the Department of Cultural Resources, Linda A. Carlisle, secretary. Admission to the Museum's permanent collection and Museum Park is free. Museum hours are Tuesday–Thursday and Saturday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.–9 p.m.; Closed Monday. For more information about the Museum, visit www.ncartmuseum.org.